Daily Report

East Europe

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Hungary Backs U.S. Action Against Iraq *[MTI]* 1
Bosnian Delegation To Meet EC 'Troika' *[AFP]* 1
UN Body Adopts Call To Lift Arms Embargo *[TANJUG]* 1
FRY Minister Expects Help From WHO *[TANJUG]* 1

INTER-EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Czech, Slovak Republics Initial EC Agreements *[Bratislava Radio]* 2
Hungary Assists With International Drug Bust *[MTI]* 2
Central European Trade Figures Released *[CTK]* 2
Czech Republic To Become Member of CERN *[CTK]* 2

ALBANIA

Officer Killed Near Yugoslav Border *[ATA]* 3
Government Supports Azerbaijan President *[ATA]* 3
Meksi Heads Meeting of Constitution Commission *[ATA]* 3
Ruli Outlines Crans Montana Meetings *[ATA]* 3

BULGARIA

Berov Criticizes SDS Protest in TV Address *[Sofia TV]* 4
Savov Explains SDS Parliamentary Group *[Sofia Radio]* 5
Zhelev Regrets SDS Boycott of Parliament *[BTA]* 5
Berov Introduces New Cabinet Ministers *[BTA]* 5
Nationwide Gypsy Rally Supports Zhelev *[BTA]* 6
Reports of Troop Movements Denied *[BTA]* 6

CZECH REPUBLIC

Klaus Ill, Cancels Visit to Belgium, NATO *[CTK]* 7
Klaus: EC Copenhagen Summit Met Expectations *[CTK]* 7
Klaus Letter to Meciar on Border Establishment *[CTK]* 7
Havel Interviewed on Czech-Slovak Border *[Prague Radio]* 7
Defense Minister Satisfied With Visit to Spain *[CTK]* 8
Government To Tighten Immigration Policy *[CTK]* 8
Minister Announces Army Personnel Figures *[CESKY DENIK 24 Jun]* 8
Government Calls Up Army To Protect Border *[CTK]* 9
Svoboda To Quit Communist Leadership *[Prague Radio]* 9
KSCM Delegates Pelted With Rotten Eggs *[CTK]* 9
Keep Name, Elect Chairman *[CTK]* 9
Figures on Slovaks Receiving Czech Citizenship *[CTK]* 10

SLOVAKIA

Meciar Interviewed Upon Return From Romania *[Bratislava Radio]* 11
Czech Border Decision Will Not Be Criticized *[CTK]* 11
Tuchyna, Hungary's Boross on Refugee Issue *[CTK]* 11
Foreign Minister Criticizes Hungarian 'Pressure' *[Bratislava TV]* 12
Hungarians, Slovaks Issue Declarations on Dam *[PRAVDA 22 Jun]* 12

HUNGARY

Jeszenszky Comments on Relations With Slovakia *[MTI]* 13
Official View of Slovakia, CE Membership *[Budapest TV]* 13
Slovak, Hungarian Foreign Ministers Meet *[CTK]* 13
Antall Interviewed on Balkan Situation *[MTI]* 13
Government Debating 1994 Budget *[Budapest TV]* 14
Defense Official Views Costs of MiG-29 Deal *[MTI]* 14

POLAND

Solidarity Chairman on Policy, Elections *[RZECZPOSPOLITA 25 Jun]* 15
Solidarity National Congress Begins *[PAP]* 18
Solidarity Invites Walesa *[PAP]* 18
Walesa Will Not Attend Congress *[PAP]* 18
Solidarity Reacts *[PAP]* 19
Solidarity Not To Join Coalition *[PAP]* 19
Walesa Parting Company With Solidarity *[Warsaw TV]* 19

ROMANIA

Iliescu Discusses Reform, European Integration *[ROMPRES]* 20
Slovak Prime Minister Meciar on Official Visit 20
Vacaroiu, Meciar Discuss Bilateral Issues *[ROMPRES]* 20
Iliescu, Meciar Discuss Minority Issues *[ROMPRES]* 20
Gherman, Nastase Meet With Meciar *[ROMPRES]* 21
Vacaroiu, Meciar Give News Conference *[Bucharest Radio]* 21

BALKAN CRISIS ROUNDUP

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 28 June 22

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Presidency To Discuss Confederation in Geneva 28 Jun *[Zagreb Radio]* 23
Izetbegovic, Ganic To Miss Peace Talks *[Zagreb Radio]* 23
Presidency Members Discuss Meeting *[Sarajevo Radio]* 23
Abdic Warns of Possible 'Military Coup' *[TANJUG]* 23
Owen Urges Izetbegovic To Compromise on Partition *[AFP]* 24
Karadzic Warns Muslims To Accept Confederation *[TANJUG]* 24
Karadzic Views Geneva Talks, Confederal Plan *[Belgrade Radio]* 25
Serbian Leader Plavsic Promotes 'Ethnically Clean' Areas *[Vienna KURIER 26 Jun]* 26
Boras Expresses Regret Over Expulsion of Croats *[Zagreb Radio]* 27
Serbian Official Views Agreement With Croats *[TANJUG]* 27
Joint Serbian-Croatian Attack on Maglaj Reported *[Sarajevo Radio]* 28
Sarajevo Radio Reports Serbian, Croatian Attacks 28
Serbian Artillery Shell Kills Seven in Sarajevo *[Sarajevo Radio]* 28
Gorazde Situation Updated; Appeal for Evacuation of Wounded *[Sarajevo Radio]* 28
* Radio Operator Describes Siege in Gorazde *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Jun]* 29
Muslim Attacks on Serbs Reported Near Brcko *[TANJUG]* 29
TANJUG Reports Muslim Attack 30
Serb-Muslim Clashes Reported in Bihac *[TANJUG]* 30
Reports Say 45 Croats Killed in Central Bosnia 22-25 Jun *[Zagreb Radio]* 30
Zagreb Radio Says 40,000 Croats Flee Central Bosnia 30
Seven Muslims Killed by Croats in Kvasnica *[Sarajevo Radio]* 30
Croatian Forces Shell Zavidovici, Zepce Areas *[Sarajevo Radio]* 30
Croats Claim Victory *[Zagreb TV]* 31
Croatian Artillery Destroys Mostar Clinic *[Sarajevo Radio]* 31
Muslims Reportedly Continue To Attack Croats *[Zagreb Radio]* 31
Muslims Reportedly Kidnapping Civilians in Sarajevo *[TANJUG]* 31
Muslims Shell Novi Travnik, Detain Croatian Civilians *[Zagreb Radio]* 32

Croats, Serbs Clash in Trebinje *[TANJUG]* 32
HVO Commander Says UNPROFOR Supplying Arms to Muslims *[Novi Sad TV]* 32
VJESNIK Reports Muslims Have Chemical Weapons *[TANJUG]* 32
Military Group Wants Compliance With 15 Jun Agreements *[Sarajevo Radio]* 33
Opposition Parties Propose Convening Assembly *[Zagreb Radio]* 33
TANJUG Views Removal of Morillon, Wahlgren 33
* Izetbegovic Complains of Lack of Weapons *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Jun]* 34
* Military Leaders Reject Partition *[London AL-HAYAH 21 Jun]* 34

CROATIA

Authorities Reject 3-Month UNPROFOR Extension *[Zagreb Radio]* 36
Tudjman Sends Letter to Bosnian Presidency *[Zagreb Radio]* 36
Granic Lauds Kozyrev's Constructive Role *[Zagreb Radio]* 37
First U.S. Ambassador Arrives in Zagreb *[Zagreb Radio]* 37
'Highly Toxic Poison' Found in Banija *[Belgrade Radio]* 37

YUGOSLAVIA

Federal

New Federal President Lilic Discusses Priorities *[Belgrade TV]* 38
Lilic Addresses Assembly *[Belgrade Radio]* 38
Lilic 'Committed to Peace' *[Belgrade Radio]* 39
Milosevic Praises Lilic *[Belgrade Radio]* 39
Sainovic Lauds Lilic Election *[Belgrade TV]* 40
Bulatovic: Election 'Step Forward' *[Belgrade TV]* 40
Chamber of Republics Passes New Federal Budget *[TANJUG]* 40
Chamber of Citizens Rejects Budget *[TANJUG]* 40
Prices Increase by 366.7 Percent in June *[TANJUG]* 40
Statistics Show 80 Percent on Verge of Poverty *[Novi Sad TV]* 40
Medicine Shortage Causes Rise in Infectious Diseases *[TANJUG]* 41
Serbs From Bosnia, Croatia Hold Unification Talks *[TANJUG]* 41

Serbia

Health of Vuk Draskovic and Wife Reportedly Improving *[TANJUG]* 42
Belgrade Rally Demands Release *[Belgrade Radio]* 42

Macedonia

Albanian Officer Killed, One Wounded in Border Incident *[TANJUG]* 42
Ethnic Serb Leader Opposes U.S. Presence *[RESPEKT 21-27 Jun]* 43

Montenegro

Podgorica Combine Loses Millions Through Sanctions *[TANJUG]* 44

Vojvodina

Seselj Harangues Subotica Crowd *[Budapest TV]* 45

Hungary Backs U.S. Action Against Iraq

LD2806092293 Budapest MTI in English 0908 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] New York, June 28 (MTI)—The United Nations Security Council essentially expressed agreement with the recent United States' military action against Iraq, at its Sunday evening session.

"We welcome the commitment of the United States to fight international terrorism and deter aggression. The U.S. decision may give the international community a new impetus to foil aggression in other places where it arises," Hungarian Ambassador to the UN Andre Erdos said.

"Those who reject basic international legal norms must understand that their deeds will not go unpunished. Those who bear special responsibility for world peace and security must be aware that if they fail to act according to the rights and duties laid down in the UN Charter, international terrorism will get out of control and the laws of the jungle prevail," Erdos said.

The council session passed no resolution.

Bosnian Delegation To Meet EC 'Troika'

AU2406113893 Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Geneva, June 24 (AFP)—The Bosnian presidency delegation at talks on the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina will meet with the European Community troika in Brussels Saturday [26 June], a delegation member said Thursday [24 June].

Franjo Boras, who is heading the Bosnian delegation in the absence of President Alija Izetbegovic, also said the seven members of the presidency had asked the U.N. forces to take them to Sarajevo as of Thursday.

The troika refers to the last, current and next chairman of the E.C., which has a rotating presidency.

Izetbegovic has boycotted the talks after dismissing a plan under discussion proposed by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic—patrons of separatist Bosnian Croats and Serbs who have wrested some 90 percent of Bosnia from the mainly Moslem government in 14 months of fighting—to divide Bosnia into three ethnic states.

The issue has left Izetbegovic isolated within the Bosnian presidency.

European Community mediator Lord Owen expressed disappointment during the first day of talks Wednesday [23 June] at the "vagueness" of the proposed borders, and added that he and U.N. mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg "didn't like" some of the proposals they had heard.

UN Body Adopts Call To Lift Arms Embargo

LD2406191093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1819 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Vienna, June 24 (TANJUG)—The United Nations conference on human rights in Vienna adopted on Thursday a special declaration on Bosnia proposed by the Islamic countries which calls for lifting the arms embargo for Bosnian Moslems.

88 Countries voted for the declaration while 55 (including western countries) abstained. Russia alone voted against.

FRY Minister Expects Help From WHO

LD2606132693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1026 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Geneva, June 26 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Minister of Health and Social Welfare Velibor Popovic said on Saturday that he expected the World Health Organization (WHO) to support efforts by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to free humanitarian aid of the sanctions.

Last April's United Nations Security Council Resolution 820 on tightening the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia practically blocks humanitarian activities, Popovic told TANJUG. Popovic is currently in Geneva on a four-day visit to the WHO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Conference of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other humantiarian organizations based in Geneva.

The Yugoslav minister discussed with Director-General of the WHO Hiroshi Nakajima possibilities for unhindered flow of humanitarian supplies. Nakajima will request United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to influence the Security Council to make easier the passage of humanitarian supplies to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, said Popovic.

He said the first step in that direction had been the unfreezing of a part of Yugoslavia's funds blocked in foreign banks, especially in the United States, which would be used for buying medicaments and raw materials for the pharmaceutical industry. Nakajima was also requested to seek that Yugoslavia be allowed to import fuels and heating oil for emergency wards.

Czech, Slovak Republics Initial EC Agreements

LD2306192893 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1630 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Association Agreements between the European Community and Slovakia and the Czech Republic were initialled in Brussels today. According to a European Commission spokesman, this document replaces the agreement signed between the 12 and Czechoslovakia. Following the division of the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic in January 1993, there was a need to conclude separate new agreements with both successor states. The agreements will come into force after they have been ratified by all concerned parliaments.

Hungary Assists With International Drug Bust

LD2406214093 Budapest MTI in English 1831 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Budapest, June 24 (MTI)—Hungarian police, cooperating with Swiss, German, and Austrian colleagues, have wound up a drug cartel which spanned Europe, Brig-Gen. Antall Kacziba, deputy head of the National Police Headquarters and chief director for criminal investigation, told reporters today.

Hungarian police learned in 1991 that Kosovo Albanians with Yugoslav citizenship were bringing large amounts of Turkish heroin and cocaine through Hungary to destinations like Switzerland.

In April 1992, Swiss, German, Austrian, and Hungarian drug squad officers set up a "Bakony Team: to wind up the cartel.

The gang was well organized in cells so it was difficult for the authorities to get to its core. Police sought to confiscate as many consignments as possible so as to cause financial difficulties to the drug ring and help break it up.

Up to June 1993, the authorities of various European countries took 156 kilograms of heroin in 55 seizures, and arrested 165 people, including 91 Yugoslavs and 22 Hungarians: Mainly couriers taking drugs for DEM [German marks] 2,000 to 5,000 a time to third countries.

The cartel suffered huge financial losses and most of its leaders are going to prison, Kacziba said.

Hungary used to be a transit country for drugs, but now they are increasingly smuggled into Hungary for use here, he said.

Central European Trade Figures Released

LD2306165393 Prague CTK in English 1445 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 23 (CTK)—Preliminary April statistics have not revealed any significant increase in Czech exports to or imports from Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, Jaroslav Mosovsky, an Industry and Trade Ministry official, told CTK today.

The central European agreement on a free trade zone (SDOVO) among the four countries took effect on March 1.

Mosovsky said the ministry did not yet have enough data for a thorough analysis. But the demand for goods will increase now that businessmen know that tariffs have been lowered. Interest in information on trade opportunities with Poland and Hungary is increasing in the Czech Republic, and vice versa, added Mosovsky.

The SDOVO liberalised trade between Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic for the least sensitive group of goods (mostly industrial items). Protective measures will be in effect for a second group of goods until 1996, and for a third group until the end of the transition period, at the moment set at eight years. SDOVO members already expressed interest in shortening the period to five years at the signing of the agreement last December.

Czech Republic To Become Member of CERN

LD2606160093 Prague CTK in English 1351 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 26 (CTK)—On July 1, the Czech Republic will officially become a member of the Geneva-based European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), the group's council decided at its meeting Friday.

Zdenek Venera, director of the Czech permanent mission to the UN in Geneva, said that a Czech delegation led by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Vratislav Ludvik took part in the council's discussion.

Czechoslovakia became a member of the research organisation January 1, 1992.

CERN was established in 1954 and since that time has aided in a number of fundamental discoveries concerning the structure of matter. CERN's activities in the field of educating scientists and technicians are also well known.

The Czech Republic's membership in CERN will allow it access to new technologies as well as the opportunity for Czech industrial concerns to obtain new orders.

Officer Killed Near Yugoslav Border

AU2806090393 Tirana ATA in English 0805 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Tirana, June 28 (ATA)—A report of the spokesman of the Ministry of Defence says that in the course of the incidents and victims caused in the border with former Yugoslavia, the division of Peshkopia informs that an officer, with the title major, of a military unit was barbarously killed and an under officer of the same unit was wounded on June 26 in the state border with former Yugoslavia, in the Albanian territory.

The circumstances of this grave and ugly event and other details will be reported as soon as the meeting of the state commissions and those of observers of the international community will be over, the report of the spokesman of the Ministry of Defence says.

Government Supports Azerbaijan President

AU2806101393 Tirana ATA in English 0813 GMT 28 Jun 93

["Albania Supports the Legitimacy of the President of Azerbaijan—Statement of the Albanian Government"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, June 28 (ATA)—The Government of Albania, member of the UN and CSCE, consistently implementing the committments of these organisations, follows with great concern the international political events. It condemns every attempt or action in opposition to the will of a people expressed by means of fair and free election.

In this context, the Government of the Republic of Albania, supports the resolution of the CSCE senior officials council dated June 24, 1993 in regard to the situation in Azerbaijan. Also it unreservedly condemns the attempts of some people of the army of Azerbaijan, who seek to overthrow the president and the government of Azerbaijan by means of force.

On this occasion, the Government of the Republic of Albania supports the legitimacy of the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Meksi Heads Meeting of Constitution Commission

AU2506134793 Tirana ATA in English 0805 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Tirana, June 25 (ATA)—The parliamentary Commission for the Draft of the Constitution convened in one of the halls of the Presidency of the People's Assembly. Taking the floor at the beginning of the meeting, the chairman of this commission, Aleksander Meksi, suggested that the procedure to be followed during the discussion of the draft, presented by the working group, should be defined. The members of the commission, S. Gjinushi, A. Imami, L. Luci asked that the fundamental principles of the draft be discussed first. If necessary, consensus from the political parties on this question should be reached.

P. Teta, P. Milo said the commission should work intensively for the draft of the constitution.

The participants in the meeting decided that the parliamentary commission for the draft of the constitution should convene on Monday to examine the chapters and the articles of the draft.

Ruli Outlines Crans Montana Meetings

AU2306135293 Tirana ATA in English 1008 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Tirana, June 23 (ATA)—Growing stability in Albania has increased the interest of foreign investors in Albania, the Minister of Economy and Finances Genc Ruli said after he returned from the meeting in Crans-Montana of Switzerland. It was devoted to information about former communist Eastern Europe, its development on the road of reforms, and the solution of its problems. These were discussed in the meetings organized in the tourist center of Crans-Montana. On the first day of the meeting, the Switzerland-Albania Chamber of Commerce, formed two months ago, was inaugurated. Attending the inauguration ceremony was the president of the Chamber of Commerce and about 20 foreign businessmen. After the program of this chamber was presented, discussions took place on the priorities of foreign investments in Albania and the political and social guarantees Albania offers to foreign investors. There was interest expressed in Albanian tourism and in the field of processing of agricultural products, whose production has increased. Difficulties in this field are in their transportation and marketing. Participants in the meeting emphasized the importance of opening of small and medium enterprises in Albania. A day later, the Minister of Economy and Finances Genc Ruli met with four of his foreign counterparts. They discussed the question of foreign investments in Albania. A working morning was also organized with 30 foreign businessmen.

Ilir Hoti, governor of the Bank of Albania, spoke in this meeting about the services that the Albanian Bank system offers to foreigners, on the revision of laws in order to create proper conditions for investments, etc. The question of foreign investments in Albania was the main subject in most of the meetings in Crans-Montana.

Berov Criticizes SDS Protest in TV Address

AU2506171893 Sofia BULGARSKA TELEVIZIYA Bulgarian Television Network in Bulgarian 1700 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Statement by Prime Minister Lyuben Berov, broadcast over National Radio and Television on 24 June 1993—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Dear compatriots: I feel obliged to share some views with you concerning the situation in our country.

Some people claim that we are facing a crisis of democratic institutions in our country. This does not correspond to the truth.

It is, however, true that we are living through a few noisy days in our most recent history. I deliberately call them noisy days for several reasons: First of all, I am referring to the noise raised about some dozen tents, which have been set up in the center of Sofia. Today half of them are empty, others are filled with a majority of inhabitants who are paid for their service or with employees of the Sofia Municipality dispatched on a special assignment.

Some people asked from the very beginning that the camp be removed by the police. This is what its organizers from the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] at 134 Rakovski Street were expecting in seeking an appropriate reason to provoke clashes. It was and is no problem whatsoever for the police to remove the camp and to clear the square within 15 minutes. Nevertheless, such demands will continue to be rejected, despite the fact that the camp has disgraced our country on several occasions in front of official guests. Such was the case in the totally unjustified and insolent hissing at [German] Chancellor Kohl by hooligans of the camp.

In accordance with its program the government adheres to a policy aimed at alleviating tension and tries to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

Naturally, the government's tolerance as regards such violations of public order has certain limits. I propose to the organizers of the camp to withdraw in an honorable manner; I do not mean that they should surrender. May they finally, within the framework of [word indistinct], let out their emotions, after which they should peacefully return to their homes and places of work. Or, if not, let them move their tents to a different place, a sensible distance from the Presidency's and the Council of Ministers' buildings.

The government has already realized that it is dealing with a group of people who by protesting and by sitting in tents are demanding the resignation of the president, the government, and parliament. Dozens of times we have heard the noisy chantings of a highly paid clique which is working in shifts. All this has already been sufficiently demonstrated and noticed. Even if the show should go on for months, it is not likely to produce any results. Such methods of street demonstrations can hardly impose anyone's resignation in a democratic state.

In the second place, I would like to dwell on the great noise which was raised around the rallies and marches recently organized by the SDS National Coordinating Council, accompanied by provocative speeches, against the president, the government, and the National Assembly.

To judge from the live reports that Bulgarian Television is sometimes selecting, many people remain with the impression that the demonstrations in question are attended by masses of people and that the whole country is emotionally involved in them.

The handful of leaders from the SDS National Coordinating Council and the SDS Parliamentary Group have announced dubious, fantastic figures on the number of participants. In a televised statement on the Panorama TV program last Saturday [19 June], Mr. Filip Dimitrov declared that 1,280,000 people allegedly participated in these actions over the last week. This is simply not true. Approximately 16,000-19,000 people participated in the march and rally on 17 June. The subsequent demonstrations rallied mostly 10,000-11,000 people with a marked falling off over the last week and days, despite the secret expenditures of large amounts paid to the participants themselves and spent on the necessary transport.

Such figures do not represent even half of 1 percent of the 6 million Bulgarian voters. This is an evident minority, although a very noisy one, (but it is even too helpless to put the alarm into operation?). It seems that the leaders of the SDS Coordinating Council hope to provoke a mass conflict with the forces of law and order during such actions, which they could take advantage of for civil disobedience and chaos.

This would mean outrageous political adventurism, which I hope the leaders at 134 Rakovski Street will hardly risk, despite their intoxication. I have noticed that the latest marches are not as noisy as at they were at the beginning.

I can assure you that the police shall not provoke any clashes, because the government is in favor of preserving social peace.

If, however, someone should call for civil disobedience or adopt aggressive actions against government buildings, he will be uncompromisingly sanctioned as an organizer of unrest in the country. The same applies to anyone who is trying to stop the water supply or any other supplies for the capital or should commit similar acts.

Edvin Sugarev's hunger strike for the president's resignation is another fact which I would describe as a reason for the noisy political demonstrations. [passage omitted]

Savov Explains SDS Parliamentary Group

AU2506102493 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Stefan Savov, chairman of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] Parliamentary Group, briefed the mass media about the fact that, according to the regulations code on parliamentary work, the deputies of his group will be deprived of two thirds of their wages because of the boycott announced yesterday.

Mr. Savov said that the SDS deputies will be in the parliament building every day and will meet to discuss which bills they will vote upon. We continue to be members of parliament and we shall inform ourselves on all bills submitted. We shall interfere wherever this is necessary, Stefan Savov, chairman of the SDS Parliamentary Group declared.

The SDS Parliamentary Group expelled Marin Todorov Dimitrov, who was relieved of his post as minister of science, education, and culture in the Berov cabinet, yesterday.

The National Assembly Commission on Human Rights thinks that it is necessary for the sake of public interest and legally justified to establish certain zones of the city which should be off limits for meetings, rallies, and demonstrations.

This point of view was reached today in discussing the bill on amendments and addenda to the currently enforced Act on Rallies and Demonstrations.

The members of the Parliamentary Commission, however, are convinced that the restrictions should be clearly specified and are planning to submit some proposals on the subject during the debate in the plenum.

Zhelev Regrets SDS Boycott of Parliament

AU2506201793 Sofia BTA in English 1947 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Sofia, June 25 (BTA)—President Zhelyu Zhelev received representatives of 13 youth organizations here today.

Before the meeting President Zhelev made a statement on the current situation for the media, aired by the Khorizont Programme of national radio. "I believe this is not the best move: It would have been much better if the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) had stayed in parliament because the passage of many important acts is forthcoming," Dr. Zhelev said commenting on the decision of the SDS parliamentary group to boycott plenary sittings. As to the tent camp pitched near the building of the Presidency by SDS activists demanding Dr. Zhelev's resignation, he said it may stay there as long as the people in it want to. "Some people obviously want to heighten tensions, cause provocations and probably pick fights, I believe we should be more tolerant and we should not accept the rules of the game offered to us," he said.

Commenting on the idea of the extraparliamentary Green Party to organize a rally in his support, President Zhelev said he was unconcerned with the rally. "In principle, a president needs no rallies, if support for the president should be proved, a referendum is a well-tried means, its results being incontestable," President Zhelev said.

The representatives of youth organizations presented a declaration to the president, protesting that "a noisy group is trying to dictate terms." President Zhelev pledged to help set forth youth problems before the executive as soon as possible, the Khorizont Programme said.

Berov Introduces New Cabinet Ministers

AU2506172093 Sofia BTA in English 1750 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Sofia, June 24 (BTA)—At a briefing in the government's press office today, Prime Minister Lyuben Berov introduced his cabinet's five new ministers elected by the National Assembly, 126-84, in a secret ballot yesterday.

There is no reason why the cabinet should not function normally and constructively, Prof. Berov said. Regardless of the political situation in the country, parliament will "perhaps work better than before, despite the declared walk-out of Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) M.P.'s from plenary sittings," he said. The SDS M.P.'s left parliament yesterday after the Bulgarian Socialist Party and Movement For Rights and Freedoms voted to support the proposed cabinet changes. The SDS will stage its latest rally in solidarity with the hunger strike of Edvin Sugarev M.P. of SDS, now in its 17th day, pressing for the president's resignation. The prime minister's view, expressed at today's briefing, is that the SDS protest campaign is subsiding.

The new Justice Minister Petur Kornazhev will insist on the speedy passage of the judiciary and police acts. At his suggestion, the ministry will start receiving and considering the complaints of citizens regarding the judiciary.

Transport Minister Kiril Ermenkov said that his ministry already had a serious programme for the development of the sector, including an investment schedule for its infrastructure and plans for the restructuring and privatization of the transport system.

The head of the newly established Ministry of Culture, Ivaylo Znepolski, declared his intentions to work for the setting up of autonomous cultural institutes. Dr. Znepolski is attaching special importance to regional structures.

Foreign Minister Stanislav Daskalov said he would work to promote professionalism and for the setting up of a

professional diplomatic service to defend the interests of Bulgaria, rather than of any political force.

Nationwide Gypsy Rally Supports Zhelev

AU2506172793 Sofia BTA in English 1634 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Stara Zagora, South Central Bulgaria, June 24 (BTA) - Representatives of Romani organizations from across the country met at a conference to discuss the problems of the Gypsies. They focused on the housing problems of the Romany community, people's negativist views of the Gypsies and the mounting discriminatory dispositions in the other ethnic groups prompted by the growing crime in the Gypsy community.

Mr. Sait Balic, vice president of the World Romani Union, said that the union will shortly open a Balkan Romani office in Sofia. The Romani Union has plans to hold a summer school and a symposium in Bulgaria on the standardization of the Romani language, culture and rites.

The participants adopted a declaration saying that the Romanies oppose any attempts to demand the president's resignation. The declaration points out that the Romani Confederation supports the political forces advocating a peaceful transition to democratic development and a unity of the Bulgarian community.

Reports of Troop Movements Denied

AU2506132193 Sofia BTA in English 2002 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Sofia, June 24 (BTA)—In a declaration read on national television this evening, Army General Lyuben Petrov, chief of staff of the Bulgarian Army, denied recent press reports which suggested directly or indirectly the possibility that the Army may be used in the country's domestic political life. "Reports on the transportation of party periodicals by warplanes and of the movement of armoured personnel carriers towards Sofia and their possible extrinsic use are outright lies," General Petrov said.

He emphasized that ever since the start of democratic changes in Bulgaria, the Army has proved and continues to prove unambiguously that it is not oriented to any political force, that it is loyal to the legitimately elected bodies of state power and that it performs in good faith its national mission. "We should not forget that it is precisely the leadership of the Bulgarian Army that insisted that the defence and Armed Forces bill include texts ruling out the use of the Army for domestic political purposes," Army General Petrov said.

He declared that there are and there will be troop movements due to the need to conduct regular training, in connection with Bulgaria's obligations arising from the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty and for carrying out some other military technological activities proper.

The leadership of the Rakovski Bulgarian Officers Legion rejects the attempts to draw the Army into the political power struggle, to intimidate the population with the Army and invented coup attempts, the legion said in a declaration circulated today.

Klaus Ill, Cancels Visit to Belgium, NATO

LD2706185193 Prague CTK in English 1756 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 27 (CTK)—Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus has cancelled his visit on Monday and Tuesday to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Community Commission and NATO for an acute neurological illness.

Government Spokeswoman Klara Pospisilova today said that Klaus was suffering from back pains and doctors did not recommend the visit.

Klaus: EC Copenhagen Summit Met Expectations

AU2506162693 Prague CTK in English 2042 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 23 (CTK)— The European Community (EC) summit in Copenhagen met our expectations precisely, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus commented about yesterday's top level EC meeting.

The EC summit meeting expressed its support for full-membership of the Czech Republic and five other Central and Eastern Europe countries, but it did not set any schedule for their admission.

Klaus added that he would make a detailed review of the summit's conclusions at a common press conference next week with the chairman of the EC Commission, Jacques Delors.

Shortly before the Copenhagen summit, Klaus speculated that the meeting would establish a clearer schedule for the admission of the post-communist countries into the EC and that it would establish several more specific moves which would signal the West's seriousness about integrating Central and Eastern European countries.

Klaus Letter to Meciar on Border Establishment

LD2606131393 Prague CTK in English 1022 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 26 (CTK)—The establishment of a normal state border between the Czech and Slovak Republics which is generally accepted among neighbouring countries is absolutely indispensable for us, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus said in a letter he sent to Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar on Friday.

Klaus stressed in the letter that it would be possible to discuss measures to moderate the administration of the border only after such a border is established given the close historical ties between the two countries and bearing in mind the necessity to maintain maximally open relations in the future. Klaus was responding to a message from Meciar which, Klaus said, contained quite the opposite suggestions.

We consider the establishment of a normal Czech-Slovak border to be of key importance, Klaus told journalists last night upon his return from an official visit to Poland. Klaus stressed he considered it impossible to constantly bring up Czech-Slovak agreements concluded last year in a situation where the migration problem was not as urgent as today, noting the new asylum laws which were recently passed in Germany.

In his letter to Meciar, Klaus called on him to immediately start talks on the border questions, adding that in his view such talks may be begun in a few days.

Havel Interviewed on Czech-Slovak Border

LD2706144893 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1215 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Interview with President Vaclav Havel by unidentified reporter at Lany presidential residence, date not given: "Conversations at Lany"—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Mr. President, whenever we draw attention in our conversations to your thinking about the future Europe without borders I have to smile a bit when mentioning the current state of relations between the Czech and Slovak Republics, for instance regarding their talks on the standard state border. However, perhaps a concept of the future Europe is really one thing, while present economic relations in Europe and the international political context of the developments in the Balkans, as well as for instance the situation in Germany, are a different matter.

[Havel] I think that the issue involves more than just a problem of refugees. The issue is that every state—even if it is a part of the most integrated supra-state community—must know its geographical limits. Subsequently, once it has its borders outlined and knows its geographical limits it can, on the basis of agreements with neighboring states, gradually liberalize border controls, making its border more and more permeable.

However, it is not really possible to want to be a sovereign state and at the same time reject the concept of the border. This is a contradiction and it reminds me about the phase in the developments of our constitutional set-up when theories emerged that we could be two states and at the same time one state. This is simply impossible.

All those who accepted Czechoslovakia's division into two states—be it with joy, be it with sadness—also have to accept the fact that a kind of border will exist between the two states.

The border is simply a self-evident necessity. In no way is it a border with a political character. It is not—as some fear—an attempt to build an iron curtain, to erect a new border between the East and the West, pushing Slovakia in the direction of Asia. This is a nonsense. It is the essential interest of the Czech Republic not to be a border state of a world upon whose border there is an abyss, beyond which another world begins. This is not the issue.

Neither is this aimed at restricting in any way the free movement of the citizens of the two republics. The principle, of course, that is applied and will be applied is that there are no restrictions whatsoever on the movement of citizens of one republic in the other republic.

However, border crossings must exist, for a number of reasons.

One of the topical reasons today is the problem of refugees. It forms a component part of the entire structure of readmission agreements. Every state has its borders, and some border crossings where it is able to control who is entering and who is leaving the country. At these border crossings the state can, if necessary, hand over refugees or defectors to the state to which the former state is obliged or entitled to hand these people over according to the agreements.

It is slightly absurd that we, the Czech Republic, have concluded a readmission agreement with the Slovak Republic on handing over refugees but at the same time the locations of a possible hand-over have not been identified at all and there is nobody to whom the refugees could be handed over.

Moreover, is is clear that it is in the interest of both states to set up these border crossings jointly, so that these become shared border crossings. Obviously, as a result of a joint effort, the investments would be many times lower.

Hence, I totally disagree with those who say that the Czech effort to reach an agreement on border crossings with Slovakia is unkind to Slovakia. That is, clearly, nonsense.

Defense Minister Satisfied With Visit to Spain

LD2706201493 Prague CTK in English 1938 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 27 (CTK)—Czech Defence Minister Antonin Baudys said today that no functional, optimum security structure will be found for Europe unless each state concerned realises that pan-European security is of priority importance.

Speaking with CTK after his return from a three-day working visit to Spain, he said his visit had been most useful. He and his Spanish counterpart Julian Garcia Vargas and other officials discussed the restructuring of the Czech army, European security and the situation in Yugoslavia.

Baudys said his meeting with military equipment producers had been most beneficial. Spain has shown interest in cooperation in some areas, he added.

Baudys was accompanied by the Chief of Staff of the Czech Army Karel Pezl.

Government To Tighten Immigration Policy

AU2506161893 Prague CTK in English 1857 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 23 (CTK)—As of July 1 the Czech Republic will introduce visa requirements for six countries where armed conflicts are taking place, Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus told journalists today.

The countries are the Serbia-Montenegro Yugoslav Republic, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and four states of the former Soviet Union—Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Tajikistan.

Klaus said that discussion of new visa-free agreements would start in relation to other countries from which emigration was either already high or threatened to be. These agreements would contain very strong regulating elements, he said. His press spokeswoman, Klara Pospisilova, added that the agreements could always be canceled if the need arose.

Until the situation in Croatia became clearer it would not be included either among the visa countries or among the countries with whom there would be visa-free agreements, Klaus said.

Romania had been much discussed by the cabinet, said Klaus. It had finally been classed among the countries with whom the new agreements on visa-free entrance would contain braking factors.

[Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 24 June on page 2 carries a 500-word "lk"-signed report on the above meeting of the Czech Government. The report quotes Government Spokeswoman Klara Pospisilova as specifying that the "strong regulatory elements" will include "the need to present an invitation, to furnish evidence at the border of a sufficient amount of money, and to have a return ticket or a voucher from a travel agency."]

Minister Announces Army Personnel Figures

AU2606061693 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech 24 Jun 93 p 2

["sak"-signed report: "Soldiers Will Again Be Wearing Uniforms When on Furlough"]

[Excerpts] In response to the growing number of cases of rioting by soldiers on furlough, Minister of Defense Antonin Baudys has instructed the chief of General Staff to draft an order restricting the possibility of wearing civilian clothes when outside the barracks. This was announced by Baudys in his address to the Parliament's Defense and Security Affairs Committee yesterday. [passage omitted]

The minister also briefed the deputies on the report on the state of the Czech Army. As of 23 June, 88,379 persons were serving in our Army. In the first half of the year 11 generals, 1,989 officers, 753 warrant officers, and

193 staff of the Ministry of National Defense and the General Staff were discharged from the Army. Within the framework of UN troops, 500 Czech soldiers are stationed in Yugoslavia [as published], plus 19 officers who are there in the capacity of observers, and 20 officers are in Mozambique. The minister told reporters that six persons were killed in the course of extraordinary events in the Army in the first half of the year, compared with 16 in the same period a year ago.

Government Calls Up Army To Protect Border

AU2506131793 Prague CTK in English 1750 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 23 (CTK)—The Czech Government decided today to call up active service conscripts to fulfill police tasks in the protection of the state border, Government Spokeswoman Klara Pospisilova told journalists today.

Currently, there are not enough policemen to perform these tasks, she added.

The Army will assign a maximum of 290 soldiers to the borders. They will be armed only with daggers, and they are to assume the same duties as those on the borders with the Czech Republic's other neighbors, Interior Ministry Spokesman Jan Subert said last week.

The Interior Ministry has been sending soldiers for border duty training to the police school in Holesov, Central Moravia.

Svoboda To Quit Communist Leadership

LD2506133193 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network in Czech 1030 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Report by Daniel Takac on news conference by Jiri Svoboda, chairman of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, CPBM, prior to upcoming party congress "this weekend"—recorded]

[Text] Jiri Svoboda recalled that he said in March that he would quit the post of party chairman. He added that the reasons prompting him to do so have not passed and he will therefore not stand again and he will not attend the CPBM congress either. Neither does he intend to retain CPMB membership.

According to Jiri Svoboda, some district conferences have demonstrated that the party is unable to adapt. Moreover, a number of people failed to understand the trend of the present world development. It is clear that the so-called reform stream [reformni proud] will have to establish a new party.

KSCM Delegates Pelted With Rotten Eggs

LD2606160593 Prague CTK in English 1355 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Prostejov, South Moravia, June 26 (CTK)—Delegates of the 3rd Congress of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM) which opened here today were met by a shower of rotten eggs by some 200 people who gathered in front of the local cultural centre where the congress is being held.

The event to protest the KSCM gathering was organised by the so-called association of right-leaning parties of the Prostejov District. Judging by the banners and flags unhurled by the protesters, followers of the far right Assembly for the Republic-Czechoslovak Republican Party (SPR-RSC) and of the Club of Committed Non-party Members were among those who attended the demonstration.

Of the 378 delegates elected to the congress at KSCM regional conferences, 367 are present, making a quorum.

It is expected that the congress will become an arena of tough collision between the hardliner communists and those party members who seek to change the name of the party and turn it into a modern left-wing party. KSCM Chairman Jiri Svoboda resigned from his post yesterday and left the party and the political scene altogether, arguing that all his efforts at reforming the KSCM have failed.

Keep Name, Elect Chairman

LD2706151693 Prague CTK in English 1453 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 27 (CTK)—Conservative Miroslav Grebenicek was elected in the small hours today chairman of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSCM), whose 3rd congress at Prostejov, south Moravia, decided to keep the party's name.

Grebenicek was supported in the second round of vote by 186 delegates out of the total of 378 present. His rival, Tomas Bleier, won 113 votes. The other candidates, Jaroslav Ortman, Vladimir Rezac, Marie Stiborova, Jaroslav Soural, Zdenek Klanica, Vlastimil Kuchar, Jiri Mastalka and Miroslav Ransdorf withdrew their candidacies.

Grebenicek, 46, is replacing Jiri Svoboda, 48, who resigned from all posts in the party and from membership of the party as well on Friday.

At a press conference on the eve of the party congress, he said he had decided to leave the political scene altogether and that he would not attend the congress.

In an explanatory letter to the congress, he said that his views and ideas which had been accepted by the KSCM's first congress, were no longer acceptable now for a majority of the congress delegates and top party officials.

Svoboda said that the KSCM was not capable of adapting itself to the pluralisitic democratic environment as it has developed after the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia in late 1989.

He believes that the party should split up. Those who saw their political capital in the past should form their own party whereas those who wanted to be a real political forces for the present and future should form another party, Svoboda pointed out.

I will try to return to my career in film and television direction which I think is more valuable for me and for other people and which brings me more satisfaction, he said.

Svoboda became KSCM chairman in 1990. He has been trying to reform the party and transform it into a modern left-orientated party. His effort, including an attempt to change the party's name, has encountered staunch opposition from the hardliners.

On December 5, 1992, an attempt on his life was made, and its motifs have not been clarified as yet.

Centrist Jaroslav Ortman, chairman of the Left Bloc (LB) parliametnary group, called the way of Svoboda's resignation a cheap and theatrical gesture. The LB consists of the KSCM and the democratic left.

The preservation of the party's name was supported by 217 delegates. Those opposed to it left the congress room and 70 of them signed a programme statement for a democratic left-wing party.

The document contains an appeal to create preparatory committees of a Democratic Left Party (SDL).

Josef Mecl, one of the signatories, said that the SDL should be a modern non-communist left-wing democratic party focusing on economic, political and social problems.

Members of the preparatory SDL committee also include Svoboda. Mecl said Svoboda's participation was not at variance with his Friday statement that he would no longer take part in political life because the preparatory committee would not be composed of professional politicians.

Asked whether the signatories would remain KSCM members, Mecl said this was their own matter. Their KSCM membership would create better conditions for cooperation with the KSCM membership, Mecl said and added that the question of double membership would be solved only after the constitution of the SDL.

The congress also revoked the membership of Miroslav Stepan and Jaromir Obzina, who founded the "for socialism socialism" faction in January.

The proposal to revoke the memberhsip of the two hardliners was put forward by centrist Ortman who said that the credibility of the party was being weakened by their presence in its ranks.

The proposal to revoke their memberhsip was supported by 222 delegates.

Stepan, 48, was party leading secretary in Prague until November 1989. Obzina, 64, was Czechoslovakia interior minister from 1973 to 1983, and afterwards he was Czechoslovak deputy premier until December 1989.

Delegates to the congress were hailed by a shower of rotten eggs by some 200 people who gathered outside the Prostejov Cultural Centre, the venue of the congress. The protest was initiatiated by the Association of Right-Leaning Parties of the Prostejov district.

The KSCM has 35 seats in the 200-seat Chamber of Deputies and is the second strongest party of the Czech Parliament, after the Civic Democratic Party (ODS) which has 66 seats.

Figures on Slovaks Receiving Czech Citizenship

AU2506162293 Prague CTK in English 2044 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Prague, June 23 (CTK)—Out of some 46,000 Slovaks who applied for Czech citizenship by the end of 1992, over 22,000 have already received it, Katerina Guluskinova, head of the citizenship registry at the Czech Interior Ministry, told journalists today.

But some other Slovaks have applied for Czech citizenship since the beginning of this year.

Many people do not know as yet that they have in fact been Slovak citizens, and they only find out when they have new IDs issued.

For people born before 1954, the place of birth was the only consideration regarding citizenship.

It is exactly because of this that many people are surprised that they are Slovak citizens, as they were only born there accidentally, for instance when their mother came to Slovakia on holiday, Guluskinova said.

From 1954 onwards, the father's and mother's citizenship was the decisive consideration.

Slovak nationality is claimed by 314,000 people living in the Czech Republic, 53,8 percent of whom are Czech citizens.

Meciar Interviewed Upon Return From Romania

LD2706100793 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1630 GMT 26 June 93

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Announcer] Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar was on a visit to Romania on Thursday [24 June] and Friday [25 June]. Shortly after he returned, landing at the Bratislava airport yesterday evening [25 June], Stella Hanzelova asked him about the results of his talks with Romanian officials and the impact on the Slovak-Czech border control system.

[Begin recording] [Meciar] Look, everybody imposes conditions on us. The FRG asks us to conclude an agreement with the Czechs, the Czech Republic says that it will not be capable of concluding an agreement with the Germans without us concluding an agreement with the Czechs, the Hungarian Republic says it will not be capable of concluding an agreement unless we do so with the Romanians. Everybody should in fact conclude agreements with his neighbors.

It is obvious that the Romanian side is aware what the situation is. They are aware of the fact that a considerable number of the Romanies [gypsies] are travellers—that they leave the country and even if they return there they leave it again for somewhere else. The Romanian side does not intend to create obstacles to the process of solving this problem. [passage omitted]

A series of agreements needs to be concluded between individual sides. The German side did not accept our solution to turn this into an all-European matter and conclude an all-European agreement on the course of action. This is a pity because a chain reaction was started and everybody is laying down certain conditions.

I hope that the time will come soon when the Hungarian side will begin to perceive the situation realistically and will stop imposing chain conditions on us. [passage omitted]

As far as the Czech Republic is concerned, I wrote a letter to Prime Minister Klaus in which I guaranteed that only a totally negligible number of people might penetrate the Slovak-Czech border illegally because of our fault. The substance of the problem is the visa requirement—the issue is those who legally enter the country and subsequently illegally extend their stay there and refuse to leave. This is a different matter and cannot be prevented by the border control system, either. The biggest group is formed by the people who throw away their documents and thus it is impossible to verify their identity and ascertain from which country they came.

[Passage indistinct] The Slovak Republic will not become a reception camp where all other countries would discard such people.

[Hanzelova] Can we expect an introduction of visa requirements in this period?

[Meciar] I proposed to the Czech side to jointly discuss issues of visas and visa requirements. We will see what conclusions we will reach. Checking visa requirements would be better.

However, in such a case, it is necessary to ascertain where such people come from. It is not just Romania, it is also Yugoslavia, some CIS states, and some people—not many of them—from the Ukraine. Thus, an agreement needs to be concluded that every state guarantees the right and obligation to take care of its citizens. [end recording]

Czech Border Decision Will Not Be Criticized

AU2506131393 Prague CTK in English 2046 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Bratislava, June 23 (CTK)—Slovakia does not intend to involve itself in the affairs of the Czech Republic if the latter decides to go ahead with strict border controls on its side of the common border, Slovak Interior Minister Jozef Tuchyna said today in an interview for Slovak Television.

Tuchyna said it was a question of the sovereign rights of a sovereign state to protect its territory.

If the Czech Republic decided to make the border firm on its side, the Slovak Republic would not pressure the Czech Republic or criticize it, said Tuchyna. Slovakia would, however, take adequate measures in such an event, he added.

Tuchyna gave no concrete indication of what these measures would be, but said that they would be taken in response to the actual situation on the border.

The Czech Republic wants to increase border controls to stop refugees entering from Slovakia, as these could pose a problem for the country after the new German asylum law comes into effect.

Tuchyna, Hungary's Boross on Refugee Issue

LD2506213493 Prague CTK in English 1751 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Bratislava, June 25 (CTK)—An agreement between Hungary and Slovakia on the returning of refugees from third countries is possible but it should be worked out and signed only after Slovakia and Romania conclude an agreement on the mutual returning of their own citizens, Slovak Interior Minister Jozef Tuchyna said today.

At a press conference on the occasion of Hungarian Interior Minister Peter Boross' visit to Bratislava, Tuchyna said a Hungarian-Slovak agreement would not solve the problem of Romanian citizens currently living in Germany because, he stressed, a special agreement between Germany and Romania was needed to transport these people. This special agreement should guarantee

that Romania would receive back those of its citizens denied asylum in Germany, he said.

Tuchyna said it was necessary that countries through which Romanian refugees would be transported should also conclude agreements. He said the question of how transport expenses would be covered had not been discussed.

Boross said Hungary ought not to find itself in a situation where after accepting Romanian refugees from Slovakia it would be confronted with Romania's unwillingness to tack back its own citizens. He ruled out, however, the possibility of introducing visa requirements for Romanian citizens for many reasons, which he did not specify.

Tuchyna said that Slovakia, too, was not considering the introduction of visa requirements for Romanians. He added, however, that Romania did not object to the possible introduction of visas to entering Slovakia.

Foreign Minister Criticizes Hungarian 'Pressure'

LD2706211793 Bratislava STV 1 Television Network in Slovak 1730 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs Jozef Moravcik and his Hungarian counterpart Geza Jeszenszky met in Visegrad yesterday. Although they agreed that they would not disclose the results of their talks, Jozef Moravcik gave us some information today.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] You do not want to speak about your meeting with Geza Jeszenszky. After this meeting, however, what do you think of Slovakia's realistic prospects of being admitted to the Council of Europe?

[Moravcik] I can say that the meeting has taken place, but we have really agreed that we should not disclose its content. I am convinced that Slovakia would be admitted to the Council of Europe, that is, I think, quite clear as Slovakia fulfills all the conditions necessary for admission to this important European institution. The question is, when? It is quite possible and even very likely that it would only happen in September when a meeting of foreign ministers convenes. It has been scheduled for November, but it is expected that an extraordinary meeting of foreign ministers will be held within the framework of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

[Reporter] Experts from the Council of Europe agreed, after a visit to Slovakia, that human rights are sufficiently observed in our country to fulfill their conditions, to say the least. What, do you think, has motivated our Hungarian partners to exert pressure and delay our admission to Europe?

[Moravcik] To tell the truth, I do not know what makes them act this way. It is true that they are exerting pressure. This is not a kind of pressure which is usual in diplomatic life and which would be positively received. It is natural that under pressure like this, the decision-making process cannot be as effective as would be desirable under different circumstances. This pressure is creating a very unpleasant political atmosphere which is not conducive to working in peace. This is why I think that the decision of the Hungarian government has not been well thought out. It is quite worrying that, according to our information, this decision was a response—to a considerable extent—to the demands of our political parties. [end recording]

Hungarians, Slovaks Issue Declarations on Dam

AU2506114293 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 22 Jun 93 p 2

[TA SR report: "What Next?"]

[Text] Bratislava—Yesterday the Slovak Republic's news agency obtained independent declarations of the Slovak and Hungarian delegations adopted by Hungarian and Slovak experts on 18 June after the failed talks on the temporary water economy regime on the Danube (DVHR).

In the [Slovak] declaration it is stated that the Slovak side has on several occasions presented the DVHR based on the dynamic emptying of channels dividing the Danube and its tributary, while taking into consideration the necessary flow-rate into the streams, the locks, the sluice [priesaka], etc. Even though this proposal meets the demands on the protection and improvement of the affected inland Danube delta, this proposal was not accepted, or even discussed by the Hungarian side. Their sticking to the inflexible EC Commission proposal, based only on the division of tributaries, does not provide a basis for meeting the necessary ecological conditions, particularly demands on the interconnections between the river and its two branch systems.

The Slovak side regrets, the declaration says, that Hungary has not accepted even that part of the proposal which deals with the immediate construction of flow-trough [prelievany] dams on the Danube bed, which would raise the water level significantly while maintaining a low flow-rate.

In the unofficial translation of the Hungarian declaration it is said that the Slovak side has not accepted the proposal drafted by the EC experts. This draft envisages a division of the Danube's water in Cunov until the matter is decided by the International Court. In order to prevent ecological damage, Hungary considers this proposal to be on the verge of acceptability for a few years' time.

Jeszenszky Comments on Relations With Slovakia

LD2506221193 Budapest MTI in English 1901 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Bonn, June 25 (MTI)—Winding up a four-day visit to Germany, Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said "Slovakia is standing at crossroads: Either it seeks to have good ties with Hungary, which will strengthen the Visegrad cooperation, or we'll have to wait."

Jeszenszky criticized Slovakia's public administration reform, currently under preparation, and changes in the school system. By the new public administration system, Slovakia would "cut up" the Hungarian population, now in a majority in some southern regions. The percentage of the Hungarian population would thus shrink to 10-15 per cent in each administrative unit, since over the 20-per-cent limit, they would be entitled to special rights.

Under the Slovak project of alternative schools, the Hungarian minority may choose "mixed" schools, where most subjects are taught in Slovak. "All this does not make it possible to realize the principle of Hungarian-Slovak reconciliation," Jeszenszky said, referring at the same time to the Gabcikovo issue.

In Bonn, Jeszenszky was heard by the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee. He met Wolfgang Schaeuble, CDU/CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] parliamentary group head and FDP [Free Democratic Party] parliamentary group head Hermann Otto Solms.

In Cologne, he attended a German-Hungarian economic forum. He was the first foreign politician to meet new Bavarian Minister-President Edmund Stoiber.

In Stuttgart, he had talks with Baden-Wurttemberg State Secretary Gustav Wabro. Wabro spoke appreciatively of the Hungarian government's policies to preserve political and economic stability.

Also in Stuttgart, he met representatives of the Federation of Germans Relocated after World War II, and informed them that Hungary's new law on citizenship gives also moral compensation to Germans relocated from Hungary and deprived of Hungarian citizenship, since it makes it easier for them to regain citizenship.

Official View of Slovakia, CE Membership

LD2606222693 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1800 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Jozsef Antall has received the Budapest ambassadors of the EC's presidential troika, Great Britain, Denmark, Belgium, and the EC Commission's charge d'affaires in Budapest. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] According to our information, the Hungarian Government's stand on Slovakia's admission to the Council of Europe [CE] has not changed. In the long term Hungary supports Slovakia's admission. However, for the time being, the Hungarian Government cannot see any guarantees for the demands of the Hungarian minority in Slovakia to be met. Therefore, the admission should be postponed until Slovak legislation can take reassuring steps in the matter.

It is well-known that the Slovak parliament announced yesterday that they do not intend to deal with matters concerning the Hungarian minority until the end of July. According to a person close to the Hungarian Government, it was also said that Hungary will not consider that minority matters have been handled appropriately if the international community makes concessions to the more aggressive side. [video cuts to show Miklos Duray, chairman of the Coexistence Political Movement, an ethnic Hungarian organization in Slovakia, being interviewed by an unidentified correspondent]

[Reporter] In connection with Slovakia's membership in the Council of Europe, how do you assess the dialogue, which has just evolved between Hungary and Slovakia.

[Duray] I expected this to happen and I consider it very natural when the Hungarian Government supports the demands of the Hungarian community of Slovakia. I do not see in it a conflict between governments or nations but a natural process, which we have to get used to. [passage omitted]

Slovak, Hungarian Foreign Ministers Meet

LD2706022493 Prague CTK in English 2106 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Budapest, June 26 (CTK)—Slovak and Hungarian Foreign Ministers Jozef Moravcik and Geza Jeszenszky met today in the Hungarian town of Visegrad to discuss Slovakia's admission to the Council of Europe (CE), well-informed Hungarian sources who did want to be named told CTK today.

They said the meeting lasted some five hours and was marked by the difference of opinion on how Slovakia had fulfilled conditions set by the Council for admission to this organisation. The two ministers agreed they would not inform the public on the content of the talks for the time being.

Ivan Baba, Hungarian Foreign Ministry deputy state secretary, who was present at the meeting, told Hungarian television that the outcome of the talks will be announced at the CE meeting on Tuesday and at the EC Ministerial Committee Session on Wednesday.

Antall Interviewed on Balkan Situation

LD2506220693 Budapest MTI in English 0811 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Bonn, June 25 (MTI)—It would be a "negative message" for the future if the world simply agreed to dismembering Bosnia-Herzegovina and the UN force withdrew, said Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall on the Berlin-based German N-TV early this morning.

The international recognition of Bosnia has its consequences. It would be sad if the principles for which a war was waged in the interests of Kuwait would not apply to Europe, Antall said.

He confirmed his view that the south Slav problem had been treated inappropriately since 1991, without regard to prevention. The bipolar thinking two years ago also played a part in this, he added.

According to Antall, one should be aware in spirit that Hungary might face a threat from former Yugoslavia, but he believed it was in nobody's interest to open a new front-line in Hungary's direction from there.

However, ill-considered action by politically uncontrolled forces would pose a hazard. A serious conflict situation would also emerge if Vojvodina's Hungarian community came under psychological pressure, or if intentions of ethnic cleansing grew stronger in relation to them, the prime minister said.

Antall did not rule out the possibility of the south Slav crisis spreading to further areas such as Kosovo or Macedonia.

Government Debating 1994 Budget

LD2606163893 Budapest Duna TV in Hungarian 1400 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] The draft 1994 State Budget, that the government is debating today in an emergency session, envisages—according to news reports—a deficit of 250 billion forints [original 1993 Budget Law planed for 185 billion forint deficit].

According to the draft the public spending borrowing requirement ['finanszirozasi igeny'] of the state budget will amount to five or six percent of the GNP in 1994. These figures are calculated while assuming an economic growth of one to three percent, an increase in export of three to six percent, and an investment growth of five to 10 percent. The government expects 16-20 percent inflation for next year.

Defense Official Views Costs of MiG-29 Deal

LD2506134793 Budapest MTI in English 1305 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Budapest, June 25 (MTI)—MiG-29s are sophisticated, highly efficient interceptors but their maintenance costs are more than twice those of the less modern MiG-23s of the Hungarian Army, Brig-Gen. Nandor Hollosi said at the Defence Ministry today. The MiG-29s are part of USD 800 million of military equipment Russia is to deliver to Hungary in lieu of some of its debts.

The engines have to be replaced after 300 to 350 hours of flight time, which means that maintaining the 28 aircraft will cost HUF [Hungarian forints] 3-3.5 billion (USD 32.6-38 million) a year for Hungary. This will start in 1997 when the first overhaul takes place.

Deputy State Secretary of Defence Sandor Turjan said it had not yet been decided whether some of the oldest MiG-21s would be withdrawn once the MiG-29s are in Hungary.

Turjan said Hungary would not export any of the new fighter planes. They would be stationed in Kecskemet, central Hungary.

Lajos Berenyi, deputy state secretary of international economic relations, said Russia still owes Hungary USD 900 million: Plans are for this to be repaid between 1994 and 1996, also in kind.

Solidarity Chairman on Policy, Elections

WS2506134593 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 25 Jun 93 No. 146 p 3

[Interview with National Solidarity Committee Chairman Marian Krzaklewski by reporters Piotr Adamowicz and Pawel Reszka: "From a Position of an Onlooker"]

[Text] [RZECZPOSPOLITA] What will happen at Solidarity's Congress?

[Krzaklewski] We will work on the statute, discuss the situation in the country and the union, and the parliamentary elections.... This should be enough for two days.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Is there a threat that during the congress, someone will come out with a proposal to recall you from the post of the National Committee chairman?

[Krzaklewski] The statute provides for such a possibility. In a pluralistic union there are different personal attitudes and options. However, I do not believe that such a motion would be accepted. I do not even think that this issue could be put on the agenda.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Still many delegates will reproach you with your too amicable attitude toward the government. Others will say that recently you have tried to outstrip Maciej Jankowski in radicalism....

[Krzaklewski] I will suggest that my critics review my proposals presented at ordinary National Committee meetings, which reflect my consistency. I wished to implement a package of systematic solutions in my talks with the state employer. However, the government adopted a political decision in order to break the agreement concluded with Solidarity and to undermine our success. I mentioned the possibility of a no-confidence vote as far back as November.... I repeated this during the miners' strike in December. The negotiations were fruitless. Thus, we put forward a no-confidence vote, because the government prevented us from implementing our statutory goals primarily for political rather than for objective reasons.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Does this mean that you are not anxious about your position?

[Krzaklewski] I suppose that even my rivals understand that it does not pay now to raise a personal storm in the union. Even adversaries of my program have stated this. Artificial prejudices have disappeared in the face of recent developments.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] How long will Wrzodak, Borowczak, Jankowski, and Borusewicz endure in one union. Until the congress or longer?

[Krzaklewski] They all will remain in the union as long as they observe the statute. There are no better or worse people. There are different views; however, this does not entail a split in the union. I do not think that something like this could happen at the congress.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Is the role of Rulewski, Borusewicz, and Arkuszewski already over in the union?

[Krzaklewski] I believe that their values still exist in the union. Some people who set up Solidarity and no longer belong to it have forgotten the values that the union was based on. The following rule continues to govern the union: Solidarity is above strife. The situation in oppositional parties is quite different, and this may serve as proof.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Does Mr. Wrzodak's rhetoric agree with these values?

[Krzaklewski] What was the rhetoric of some activists like in 1981? It is enough to read some old newspapers.... I do not criticize the manner in which some activists express their political views. Our union permits such freedom. However, these people should not present their personal opinions as the union's position, because they differ.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Do you have a complex of the "first Solidarity heroes"?

[Krzaklewski] I have spent my term in prison and worked in the underground. It is not important to count how many years one spent there. The important thing is the consistency with the choice that was made in 1980.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Have those "first heroes" fulfilled their mission in the legislature? Will you urge them to run on the union list in the upcoming elections?

[Krzaklewski] Those activists who voted against the union's laws failed to fulfill their mission and violated our rules. Their path and the course of the union are likely to separate. This does not mean, however, that we must fight. These activists seem to be moving toward political careers, and they must decide this themselves.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] How long does the National Committee intend to ignore how the "Siec", which unites Solidarity committees from enterprises, is flirting with the president and going to elections as a union's rival?

[Krzaklewski] If some union structures join another bloc, which contradicts the decisions adopted by the congress, they will violate our laws, and certain statutory measures will be applied to them. However, the "Siec" has not mentioned such a plan. Separate union members may run for the elections with anyone they want, as long as they do not involve union structures in other parties' campaigns without our permission. On the other hand, the election is a serious thing—if union members do not vote for Solidarity, the unions may be replaced with associations.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What will be Solidarity's attitude toward the BBWR [Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms] during the campaign?

[Krzaklewski] We should not become antagonists. Solidarity represents the employees. The BBWR wants to represent the interests of four groups, including the employees. Thus, if our programs are not contradictory, we will complement each other.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Does a clash concerning the president threaten the congress? Do the "Mazowsze" delegates have a resolution of their regional congress that authorizes them to criticize the president?

[Krzaklewski] I do not think that the congress would like to deal with such issues.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] You should admit that the no-confidence vote was a failure for the union.

[Krzaklewski] I do not agree with you! This vote was fruitful. Our current partner is not the government but the president who also embodies the real executive authority.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Why was Solidarity's cooperation with the government that was defined as pro-union unsuccessful?

[Krzaklewski] The political elite that remains in power is eager to conserve certain legal inaccuracies and gaps in order to increase its influence. Our union speaks out against such trends. Moreover, there is a widespread opinion that Solidarity's overly large success might be dangerous for this elite. That is why political decisions are adopted to eliminate the union's achievements. Thus far, all political parties have actually treated Solidarity as an instrument. The attitudes of the governing and oppositional parties have been different.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What did Solidarity gain from the dissolution of the legislature?

[Krzaklewski] It has turned out that certain issues, which the government blocked earlier, have been resolved. However, these were only cosmetic changes. We are still looking forward to the responses on the following issues: the prices for energy and fuel, the compensation for the negative effects of the VAT [Value-Added Tax], the allotment of additional budget revenues for the budget sphere and protective activities....

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] And what if the president says "No!"?

[Krzaklewski] We will have to resort to effective measures in order to implement our postulates.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] You have already toppled the government, and the legislature has been disbanded. All that remains is to overthrow the president.

[Krzaklewski] We are not concerned with toppling someone, but with implementing our ideas.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Is Solidarity able to organize a general strike? The strike in the radical "Mazowsze" was not too successful.

[Krzaklewski] A long-term general strike is impossible. We have no money for this. In addition, economic losses would be great. However, a broad strategic strike is possible. The combination of the miners' strike in Slask in winter with the protest in transport demonstrated how a union's protest action may be accomplished.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Will you, please, disclose the secret about when the president proposed the office of a prime minister to you?

[Krzaklewski] He did not propose anything of the kind. I am surprised that this gossip is so widespread. The president has proposed this to many persons as a joke. For example, once he proposed that we swap our positions.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Would you like to be a prime minister? It is said that there is no such politician in Poland whose response would be negative.

[Krzaklewski] This is true, but before that one must say one's prayers. If such a situation emerged, I would agree only after completing my term as the chairman. I would do so not because I want this, but because the situation requires such a choice.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Your union has proved very strong on the political scene. It made political parties unite and form a governing coalition instead of a split. Later, the union managed to rally the opposition for the no-confidence vote. In this situation, you, as the leader of this powerful organization, should answer the following question: What government and what specific prime minister will suit Solidarity? The absence of a definite response will confirm Rulewski's words that some actors on the political scene throw building blocks off the table in the hope that someone will arrange them in a better manner. If not, these actors will be able to scatter them once again. This is a political brawl....

[Krzaklewski] I clearly stated at the last congress that Solidarity is interested in an oppositional majority government (to enable normal lawmaking) that would treat the agreement with the union seriously. This question proves that the power of the union was underrated, and that the government's conceit and its inability to perceive the social situation was exposed.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Could you be more specific? What parties and what people? After the meeting in Bocheniec, near Kielce, you enumerated the union's opponents in the election: post-communists, those who wanted to have a romance with the post-communists, and neo-liberals. This was interpreted as a hostile attitude toward the SdRP [Social Democracy of the Polish Republic], UD [Democratic Union], and KLD [Liberal-Democratic Congress]. You also said that you would not compete with the KPN [Confederation for an Independent Poland] and UP [Labor Union] in the election. Does this mean that the center right will be Solidarity's ally?

[Krzaklewski] At that time I did not make any statement on government configurations. The question of who will be in the government is not that important; what is vital is that power should not be taken over by post-communists and their collaborators. The government that will be in power will have to give some thought to our proposals and respond to them. If it does not pay proper attention to us, it will mean a failure for them.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Who is going to be this partner then? You must know it!

[Krzaklewski] It will be the party that defines its program and proves that it is implementing it.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Has any group defined itself in this way yet?

[Krzaklewski] I have not heard about it yet... Anyway, self-definitions are not that important; what is important are concrete activities.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] In other words, you do not know it yet. What if post-communists win?

[Krzaklewski] Then the union would certainly try to change the situation. We would aim at changing the government in a democratic manner.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What government would you support, then?

[Krzaklewski] Why should we support anyone? We will not participate in creating the government. This would be a grave mistake. We will do anything to avoid it. Unless there are extraordinary circumstances.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] However, this is destructive for the new legislature: Another power will emerge that will be excluded from forming the government. How can we speak about stabilizing the executive power in this situation?

[Krzaklewski] Perhaps such measures are necessary during transformation? At such time the legislature mirrors the political market that is just taking shape. It would be different if the political scene were stable. Then a union representation would not be necessary. Now we want to closely watch the political scene take shape, to watch it from the point of view of employees. Besides, it is we that started the processes, and now we want to participate in supervising them.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Now, what if "S" wins many votes?

[Krzaklewski] Then the congress will probably have to decide whether to establish a political party. In such a case, a party established by the union would form, or participate in forming, the government or the opposition; the union itself will not fight for power.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] You do not want to wield power; all the same, you are running in the election with full lists.

[Krzaklewski] This is an answer to the challenge of the new electoral law and a result of a mathematical analysis of the previous election.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Would it be better if the union did not win the election?

[Krzaklewski] We want to enter the legislature, even if our representation is small. The union's presence in the legislature prevents strikes and protests as a means of resolving conflicts. We will have the legislature, instead of the street, at our disposal.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Here are some of your declarations: the threat of re-communization; certain facts in the transformation process show that the union is on the center right side.

[Krzaklewski] Our union is in the center or center right. This is because it does not advocate the left wing slogans; it advocates the idea of defending the interests of the employee as a subject of not only work, but also a subject of the social and economic processes that surround him (privatization, participation in management).

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] In other words, you are close to the Polish Union?

[Krzaklewski] We certainly are, as far as the attitude toward the relics of communism is concerned. However, we cannot speak about joint activities because center-right parties have not taken a position on employees' rights. Their stance continues to change, depending on whether they were in opposition or in the government coalition.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] So, it looks like as if the union is doomed to opposition no matter who wins the election?

[Krzaklewski] No, it is not. This is a tactic. There are many options... We must make sure that there will no attempts of limiting union rights. That here will be a guarantee of protecting the social endurance threshold, and guarantees for people participating in privatization... These are the conditions for our support.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] How much support do you think "S" will win in the election?

[Krzaklewski] We would be satisfied with more than seven percent; that would be a success. We will, however, be happy if we exceed the five percent limit.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Is it certain that the new deputies will obey the National Committee?

[Krzaklewski] The regulations that our deputies should observe must be defined by the congress. We must make sure that union decisions are implemented by our parliamentary deputies. However, the deputies must also have freedom to operate in a different political situation such as the parliament.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What about the idea of a deputy signing his resignation and leaving it with the National Committee?

[Krzaklewski] There are no ideal solutions.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What about yourself? Will you run?

[Krzaklewski] This is also to be decided at the congress; tactical priorities will be the decisive factor.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Anyway, you must know whether you want to be in the parliament.

[Krzaklewski] I have no dilemmas. Nonetheless, I will not voice my opinion for the time being. I only think that it is difficult to reconcile the two functions. However, this may be done in exceptional situations.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What does your wife suggest?

[Krzaklewski] We have not talked about it yet. She criticizes me a lot—she is a health service employee. I have to explain that it is not me, that it is the government...

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Will you require the National Committee chairman to be the head of the [parliamentary] club?

[Krzaklewski] This would prevent dual authority. It would also ensure a better coordination of activities. The issue is whether the union would not lose out because a single person may not be able to perform the two functions. It would be an enormous burden...

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] How are you coping with your problems as an employer? According to the statute, you are the director of a company called the National Committee of the NSZZ "Solidarity."

[Krzaklewski] Most of these duties have fallen on Janusz Palubicki, my deputy.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] The government is also saying that someone else is responsible.

[Krzaklewski] I may speak with some third director of a department if he is authorized by the prime minister. Palubicki enjoys my authority. We have never experienced a strike emergency situation, or a strike, even in the face of outside pressure.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Perhaps the unions in your company have too much to say?

[Krzaklewski] It is one of the strongest plant committees, which is a problem for the employer.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Why does "Solidarity" have increasingly fewer members? In June 1992, it had approximately 1.8 million. There are currently less than 1.6 million members.

[Krzaklewski] The most important reason is the mass layoffs. Trade unions generally address the problems of the entire staff and not individual union members. Many employees prefer not to become involved, participate, and to pay union dues. Others prefer to stand on the sidelines and criticize.

Solidarity National Congress Begins

LD2506122493 Warsaw PAP in English 1116 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Zielona Gora, June 25—The National Commission of the "Solidarity" trade union began its latest session in Zielona Gora on Friday morning. The session was closed to reporters.

National Commission press spokesman Grzegorz Jaczynski told reporters that the agenda included discussion of "the negotiations between the union and the president's office." The National Commission is also likely to approve a draft document outlining the union's stance on possible participation in the September elections.

The meeting is also expected to approve the agenda for the National Congress of the Union, which begins in Zielona Gora at 1600 hrs on Friday.

Solidarity Invites Walesa

LD2506133893 Warsaw PAP in English 1330 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Zielona Gora, June 25—President Lech Walesa on Friday was invited to the congress of the Solidarity trade union, spokesman for the union's National Commission Grzegorz Jaczynski said on Friday.

The spokesman added that the president will be invited for Sunday afternoon, the third day of the congress. The meeting with the president is to be devoted to the current situation in Poland and to relations between the state and trade unions.

Walesa Will Not Attend Congress

LD2706143693 Warsaw PAP in English 1407 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Warsaw, June 27—President Lech Walesa will not take part in the 5th National Solidarity Trade Union Congress underway in Zielona Gora, presidential spokesman Andrzej Drzycimski announced Sunday.

In an interview for the Polish Radio Drzycimski said one of the reasons behind the president's decision is the fact that the Solidarity rejected his proposal to jointly participate in the forthcoming general elections.

The spokesman explained that by rejecting the president's proposal to make joint efforts to consolidate the unionist movement and subsequently strengthen the Solidarity Union, Solidarity activists proved that they "have chosen a different road," Drzycimski said.

Solidarity Reacts

LD2706152693 Warsaw PAP in English 1457 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Zielona Gora, June 27—Asked to comment on President Lech Walesa's refusal to accept the invitation to attend the Solidarity National Congress, one of the union's leaders Jacek Weiss told a press conference on Sunday that some unionists feared that the president's presence would "divert the congress' attentions from its basic goals, is it was the case in Gdansk"

Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski earlier in the day said Walesa's decision not to attend the congress came to him as "a surprise" and expressed hope that it would not influence negotiations between Solidarity and government.

Solidarity Not To Join Coalition

LD2606215093 Warsaw PAP in English 2017 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Zielona Gora, June 26—Delegates at the fifth Solidarity congress at Zielona Gora decided on Saturday that Solidarity would not join any electoral coalition and would forward its own candidates in the parliamentary campaign.

The decision was reached after 2 votes - 253 to 28 with 15 abstentions on candidating alone and 251 to 16 with 22 abstentions on not entering any coalition and candidating alone.

The delegates also voted not to limit the number of Solidarity candidates in the election campaign to both houses of parliament by 249 votes to 24 with 23 abstentions.

Just before the voting Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski argued that if "trade unionists do not vote for their own candidates at the elections to both houses of parliament, then they will be voting for limiting trade union rights."

Krzaklewski said that Solidarity should be prepared for several eventualities in the election results. If the ex-communists won or achieved significant gains, then the union should behave "in an exceptionally militant way and present a democratic method for changing that situation, just like we did in 1980."

Krzaklewski said that the fact that some politicians from the opposition were ready to make deals with the ex-communists meant that they were giving up on the reforms and were allowing the communists to block the reforms while introducing methods from the previous era.

The leader of the Solidarity parliamentary floor group in the last parliament, Bogdan Borusewicz, proposed that Solidarity should form its own political party. This was opposed by Krzaklewski who maintained that workers distrusted political parties at present.

Borusewicz said that the majority of delegates supported the idea that Solidarity parliamentary representation was merely an extension of the union, an office to execute the unions wishes in the parliamentary sphere. "This does not take into account the differences between the way parliamentarians and the union work. The union can only make demands, but the parliamentarians and their floor group must find solutions," he declared. [passage omitted]

Walesa Parting Company With Solidarity

LD2706195393 Warsaw TVP Television Second Program Network in Polish 1900 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Interview with President Lech Walesa by unidentified reporter on 27 June; place not given; relayed by TV Polonia Network—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] You were not at the Solidarity congress. Why did you not make use of the invitation?

[Walesa] Of course, the invitation was very tactless, but every organization has the right to make its own decisions. I think the public has to interpret this appropriately.

[Reporter] How do you assess the proceedings and the resolutions adopted by the congress?

[Walesa] They have not reached me yet. That's the first thing. Second, from what I know by today, I can say that for the first time the ways—of myself and of the present Solidarity—are parting. It is sad but that is how it looks today.

[Reporter] Does that mean you have stopped feeling like a trade unionist?

[Walesa] No. I would not like to belong to such a union, because you cannot deny opportunities to confront arguments, you cannot prevent discussion. That's conceit, that's a great mistake. And that is why the Solidarity which I built, which I recovered always gave opportunities. This Solidarity—I don't know what has happened to it—is not my Solidarity.

[Reporter] Mr. President, in the past two days your concept of the Non-Party Bloc in Support of Reforms [BBWR] has been very strongly criticized by the Democratic Union [UD] and the Polish Peasant Party.

[Walesa] Of course, this is election struggle and that is very good. Nevertheless, those organizations have had their chance, and today let them hear the public's judgement. You have to make your actions more dynamic, you have to implement all the programs proclaimed in the elections. None of these parties has fulfilled its duties; I intend to put this right in the BBWR.

[Reporter] But do you not fear, Mr. President, the allegations by Mr. Mazowiecki and Mr. Geremek that the BBWR in the next parliament, if it gets in, will become fragmented, and we will get exactly what we have had?

[Walesa] I know these prophets. They have already spun their prophecies a few times, and we have the results that we do, and their prophecies have never come true, while mine do.

Iliescu Discusses Reform, European Integration

AU2506101393 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1200 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 24/6/1993—President Iliescu disavowed at his news conference on June 24 the rumours saying that he would have tackled at a recent interview he had had with the chairman of the Christian Democratic National Peasant Party, PNTCD, Corneliu Coposu, the issue of a government reshuffle. We exchanged opinions on the present evolutions in Romania, and the discussion was constructive, said President Iliescu, who added that neither the PNTCD leader find a government reshuffle opportune at that moment.

The head of the Romanian state enlarged on his idea that a political and social pact would be welcome in Romania. It should start, said he, from a joint assessment of the current stage of the reform, in an effort to deepen democracy, to improve political and parliamentary life, the ties among political parties. Such an assessment would be aimed at seeking a basis for understanding and cooperation in matters of national interest.

In answer to a question, President Iliescu stated that he knew no details on the transaction between the Romania company "Petromin" and the Greek firm "Forum Maritime" that has been vehemently criticised in the Romanian press. The latter, said the press, is going to take over control of the Romanian commercial sea fleet. President Iliescu assured the attendance that no ship would be sold, that the management of the fleet would be passed to a joint venture based in Bucharest and not to a foreign firm. The agreement on this issue will be referred for an in-depth examination to relevant bodies, added the president. He mentioned that he, for one, he trusted the present minister of transport.

"After the talks I had in Vienna with Catherine Lalumiere, secretary general of the Council of Europe, with the president and the foreign minister of Austria, I could realise that our country was better understood, said President Iliescu, in answer to one journalist. I told them it was puzzling for me to see that there existed a certain reserve as for Romania's admission to the Council of Europe. But it seems that our talks led to a better understanding of Romania and our admission may be discussed by the council of Europe in the month of September," added Ion Iliescu.

In answer to another question, the head of the Romanian state mentioned that the formula according to which Bosnia-Herzegovina would form a confederation made up of three republics, was a good sign, welcomed by everybody. The speaker ran some of the consequences of the enforcement by Romania of the UN embargo against Yugoslavia. Romania's losses have totalled around 7 billion dollars so far, resulting from both direct and indirect consequences, including traffic and transit on the River Danube. Ion Iliescu voiced his hope that when an agreement was reached on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the embargo would be eased or even lifted.

Slovak Prime Minister Meciar on Official Visit

Vacaroiu, Meciar Discuss Bilateral Issues

AU2506134693 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1813 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 24/6/1993—Premier Nicolae Vacaroiu met on June 24 in Bucharest with Vladimir Meciar, prime minister of the Republic of Slovakia. The meeting was termed as "extremely efficient, the standpoints on the issues discussed coinciding to a great extent or being very close", according to Octavian Partenie, a member of the Romanian delegation participant in the talks.

The two heads of government informed each other of the stage of economic and social reform in their countries. Both parties agreed that the direct links between the two countries should be developed as much and as fast as possible in every field. A treaty of friendship and collaboration between the two countries is expected to be signed in Slovakia when President Iliescu visits there.

The two premiers agreed to sign in Bucharest, on June 25, the bilateral agreement on commercial exchanges and payments between Romania and Slovakia.

At the guests' initiative, they also discussed issues regarding national minorities.

Iliescu, Meciar Discuss Minority Issues

AU2506134593 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1819 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 24/6/1993—Romanian President Ion Iliescu received visiting Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar on June 24.

President Iliescu told the press after the meeting with the Slovak premier that both countries had to cope with similar difficulties in the process of democratization of society and, for that reason, their mutual collaboration could only be of help. "We are equally interested in joining the Council of Europe, the other European bodies. We are against the discrimination of Central- and East-European states and advocate promotion of confidence among all European states", President Iliescu said.

Approaching the issue of observance of human and nationalities' rights, and saying that Romania accepted the alignment to European standards in that respect as early as December 1989, Romania's president said: "The minorities should not become an instrument of interference in other states' affairs, a source of tension. On the contrary, they should become a means of communication between neighbor states."

Slovak Premier Meciar, speaking of the same matters, stressed in turn that "the situation of national minorities cannot be reduced to a bilateral issue, it is a European one, therefore it should be subordinated to European norms. They must be observed by all states, Hungary included". He added that "I would greet the day when the Slovaks in Hungary had as many rights as the Hungarians in Slovakia".

The dialogue at Cotroceni also covered the development of the bilateral relations. Premier Meciar conveyed to President Iliescu the invitation extended by Slovakia's president to visit his country. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Gherman, Nastase Meet With Meciar

AU2506171293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1051 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 25/6/1993—The Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, currently on an official visit to Bucharest, was received on Friday, 25 June, by the president and the speaker of the two chambers of Romania's Parliament, Oliviu Gherman and Adrian Nastase.

The talks occasioned a review of current major issues of bilateral ties appreciated by both sides as "extremely warm and close". Evoked was the coinciding standpoints over several issues, especially those related to domains like the economic and legislative. Special reference was made to the statute of the minorities in both countries, to aspects related to the Hungarian minority.

Stressed during the talks was the need to deepen cooperation on multiple planes, in the context on an international plane too, especially over issues of joint interest. Also pointed out was both parties' concern for the situation in the Balkans as well as their wish to support efforts for a peaceful solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia.

Vacaroiu, Meciar Give News Conference

AU2506185693 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Today, the talks, begun yesterday, between Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and Mr. Vladimir Meciar, prime minister of the Government of the Republic of Slovakia, continued at Victoria Palace in the afternoon. Vladimir Meciar is paying a two-day official visit to our country, at the invitation of the Romanian Government chief.

According to our reporter, a news conference was held after the ceremony, during which a trade and cultural cooperation accord was signed.

In their statements, the two chiefs of government assessed this visit as being particularly useful. They emphasized the convergent opinions in connection with further developing cooperation at various levels for the benefit of peace and stability in Europe. They pointed out the role the two countries may play in building a new Europe with a view to European integration, and especially as regards the status of the ethnic minorities in the two states.

Mr. Vladimir Meciar specified that the meeting he had held with representatives of the Slovak minority in Romania emphasized the fact that, quote: the status of this minority is much better than that of the Slovak minority in Hungary. This is something that should be better known throughout the world, unquote. He also expressed positive words about the policy promoted by Romania's government regarding the status of ethnic minorities.

In his statement, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu emphasized that, during the talks conducted in the past days, the sides held lengthy discussions on issues linked to the economic and political reform process, with emphasizes on the stage of privatization and social protection. He said that the transition is a very difficult process that cannot be overcome except through close cooperation between friendly and neighboring countries.

The discussions that will follow at the level of experts will probably contribute to the signing—in September, during President Ion Iliescu's visit to Bratislava—of the treaty of cooperation between the two countries.

In concluding his statement, Mr. Nicolae Vacaroiu specified that both Romania and Slovakia have to be more active in order to make their problems known to the world the way they are.

The questions asked by the journalists were mainly linked to the attitude of the two countries and governments toward the status of the Hungarian minority.

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 28 June

WA2806181193

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Izetbegovic continues to boycott talks ... Serbian opposition leaders demonstrate for release of Draskovic ... Continued fighting reported between Serbs, Muslims throughout Bosnia, and Muslims, Croats in central Bosnia ... Croatian Government rejects extension of UNPROFOR mandate.

POLITICAL

IZETBEGOVIC BOYCOTT CRITICIZED (Zagreb Radio, Sarajevo Radio, AFP, TANJUG): Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic announces that neither he nor Vice President Ejup Ganic will attend a new round of peace talks scheduled for 28 June in Geneva. Miro Lasic, one of the seven Presidency members who will attend the talks, asserts that the Presidency has the authority to negotiate an agreement without Izetbegovic. Saying that the warring sides cannot reach an agreement "as long as there is no desire for peace in Sarajevo," international mediator Owen accuses Izetbegovic of not being "prepared to make the necessary compromise to save his people." Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic warns that if the Bosnian Muslims refuse to agree on a confederation of three ethnic states, the Serbs and Croats will divided the country among themselves into two parts. (LD2606201593, LD2506162993, AU2506183493, AU2806080793, LD2706225193

OPPOSITION PARTIES HOLD RALLY (Belgrade Radio, TANJUG): Serbian opposition parties hold Belgrade rally demanding release of Serbian Renewal Movement leader Draskovic and his wife, who have been detained since a 1 June melee between demonstrators and police in front of the Federal Assembly building. TANJUG reports that the condition of Draskovic and his wife, who opposition leaders say were beaten during and after their arrest, has "improved" after "extensive" treatment. (AU2706142593, LD2506213193)

MILITARY

JOINT ATTACK ON MAGLAJ REPORTED (Sarajevo Radio): Muslim forces report Serbs, Croats collaborating in attack on Maglaj, say town "urgently needs" international help to prevent "mass genocide" of local Muslims. (LD2706134193)

SERBIAN-MUSLIM FIGHTING REPORTED (Sarajevo Radio, TANJUG): Sarajevo Radio reports that Bosnian Serbs killed seven in an artillery attack in a Sarajevo district and are "regrouping" around Gorazde in preparation for a new attack on the besieged Muslim enclave. Bosnian Serb forces say Muslim forces, "supported by artillery and tanks," attacking Serbian positions in Brcko and Bihac. (LD2606125993, LD2806084693, LD2806101493)

MUSLIM-CROAT CLASHES CONTINUE (Zagreb Radio, Sarajevo Radio): Bosnian Croats say some 40,000 Croats have been driven out of central Bosnia by Muslim forces and that Muslim attacks killed 45 Croats from 22 to 25 June. Sarajevo Radio reports strong Croatian attack on Zepce, while Zagreb Radio says 1,000 Muslim soldiers "have surrendered" in battle for town. (LD2706144093, LD2706221693, LD2706113693, LD2706230793)

PEACEKEEPING FORCES

CROATS REJECT EXTENSION OF MANDATE (Zagreb Radio): Croatian Defense and National Security Council announces it "cannot accept the extension of the UNPROFOR mandate" allowing the continued deployment of UN peacekeepers on Croatian territory unless Serbs in Croatia agree to sign Vance plan. Council proposes that mandate be extended for a one month "trial period" instead of the three months that were requested by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. (LD2506183893)

CROAT SAYS UNPROFOR ARMING MUSLIMS (Novi Sad TV): In an interview with Novi Sad TV, Bosnian Croat commander Juric accuses UNPROFOR of transporting "mines, shells, and a lot of ammunition" for Muslim forces during clashes with Bosnian Croats. (AU2706193093)

Presidency To Discuss Confederation in Geneva 28 Jun

LD2606201593 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency member Franjo Boras has stated in Brussels that the collective presidency will accept that there be a discussion in Geneva the day after tomorrow [28 June] on the proposal for a confederation, but it will not adopt a decision before agreement is reached between all those who have an important political position in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Boras told this to correspondents after his meeting with the three EC foreign ministers of Great Britain, Denmark, and Belgium. [passage omitted]

Izetbegovic, Ganic To Miss Peace Talks

LD2506162993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] President Alija Izetbegovic of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency and Presidency member Ejup Ganic will not travel either to Brussels or to Geneva because of urgent duties in Sarajevo, Izetbegovic's office announced today. The office also announced that Izetbegovic and Ganic were calling on all Presidency members to return to Sarajevo as soon as possible to attend a joint session.

Muhamed Filipovic, one of the most prominent opposition figures, also appealed to Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency members to urgently return to Sarajevo.

Presidency Members Discuss Meeting

AU2506183493 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Report by Nada Al-Isa from Zagreb]

[Text] Yet another session of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, that is, of the seven Presidency members who also attended the Geneva talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina, was held in Zagreb today. [Word indistinct] agreement prior to tomorrow's continuation of the talks in Brussels with the European troika, and the talks with Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, cochairmen of the conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina on Sunday [27 June], Presidency member Fikret Abdic said. He was the first to leave the Presidency session by saying that everything [word indistinct] has been agreed on.

When asked whether Bosnia will be a federation or a confederation, Fikret Abdic said: There is time to discuss this.

Presidency member Miro Lasic was far more precise. He said that today's meeting in Zagreb was a real Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency session, regardless of the absence of President of the Presidency Alija Izetbegovic, because, as Lasic says, this is possible according to the statutes.

Lasic added that they will be able to make decisions in Geneva, although President Izetbegovic will not be there. [Words indistinct] Presidency members [word indistinct] sufficient to be making decisions.

Presidency member Miro Lazovic surprised the journalists the most by his resoluteness. When asked whether a confederation of Bosnia-Herzegovina will be accepted, he replied: Absolutely not. Mile Akmadzic said the same. Akmadzic also said that the Presidency is willing to listen to all the proposals, but that any divisions are out of the question.

We have also learned that the Presidency members will decide today, that is to say, they have already decided which proposals they would accept from what had been agreed by Croatian and Serbian Presidents Tudjman and Milosevic in Geneva. However, journalists were not able to find out what was accepted and what not.

The most critical of all was Miro Lasic, who said that the purpose of the present international talks of the Presidency members was not only the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but to tell the world, as he said, that President of the Presidency Alija Izetbegovic has, so far, travelled around the world of his own accord, without informing anyone about it, which, to Lasic, means that President Izetbegovic usurped power. This must be prevented, Lasic says.

Abdic Warns of Possible 'Military Coup'

LD2606123193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1122 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Zagreb, 26 Jun (TANJUG)—Fikret Abdic, member of the rump Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, has said in an interview with Zagreb's VECERNJI LIST that some people in Sarajevo are harboring ambitions of staging a "military coup."

Military coups have never brought about any results anywhere in the world and would not do so in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Abdic said. He added that the Presidency, as "the Supreme military command," will consider the military situation in the Republic because, he warned, "there are more and more attempts to lead the civilian authorities astray" so that the military authorities can increasingly assume power.

Asked whether there were any disagreements with President Alija Izetbegovic, Abdic stressed that he personally "is against those who are in the way of better results." "I will not comment on what Izetbegovic and Ganic are saying about my actions," he said.

Commenting on reports from Austria on his company, Abdic warned that "a well-known center" was doing everything against him and that "fierce accusations" were being made by people from his party (SDA) [Party of Democratic Action].

"I will say openly that a coup was staged in the SDA. The leadership has misused the people. The SDA executive committee is doing whatever it wants," Abdic stressed.

They asked me to write a reply to accusations regarding the Vienna-branch of the Agrokomerc company, but I will not do this because "all this has been staged" and "I know who is behind it," he said. "I also know how to fight them," Abdic stressed.

Asked whether he would attend a Presidency session in Sarajevo, Abdic said he had proved that he was "the most courageous member of the Presidency" but that "the situation is not right" for his return to Sarajevo.

"I know well what they in Sarajevo have prepared and what they are preparing for me," Abdic said, adding that while he was in Kladusa six groups were sent to liquidate him, but all were found in time. "I am brave, but I will not go to Sarajevo," Abdic stressed in concluding his interview.

Owen Urges Izetbegovic To Compromise on Partition

AU2806080793 Paris AFP in English 1414 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Paris, June 27 (AFP)—E.C. mediator Lord Owen has hit out at Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for refusing to compromise to end the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina and save his people.

In an interview with the French Sunday paper here "LE JOURNAL DE DIMANCHE" he accused Sarajevo authorities of not wanting peace.

Lord Owen said of Izetbegovic: "He is simply not prepared to make the necessary compromise to save his people. I don't want to see him moved aside, but we can't reach an agreement as long as there is no desire for peace in Sarajevo."

He said a partition plan for war-torn Bosnia had only a "slight chance" of being accepted by the Bosnian Moslems.

"But the question is to know whether we recognise that it is better to negotiate now or to let the war continue," he added.

Lord Owen said: "It is particularly painful for someone who is fighting a war against a confederation to be asked to accept it now. It's a lot to ask him (Izetbegovic), but I hope he will accept, because the situation is deteriorating daily and this solution will give the Moslems a viable republic."

The consitutional outlines of the plan which would divide Bosnia into a three-way Moslem-Serb-Croat confederation were agreed in principle last week by Serb and Croat leaders.

But under the plan put forward by Serb and Croat leaders, Moslems who before April 1992 comprised 45 percent of the population, would be left with only 30 percent of the territory.

Owen said there was a "grave danger" that Izetbegovic would not go to Geneva for talks due to open Monday between all the parties.

Izetbegovic and his Vice President Ejup Ganic have already refused to attend the talks. On Friday the ethnically-mixed Bosnian collective presidency agreed it would not accept any plan which led to a division of Bosnia.

The new proposals effectively buried the peace plan drawn up by Owen and former U.N. mediator Cyrus Vance. Owen said: "We failed to find a honourable solution. That is very sad. But we mustn't stop trying to achieve peace under the pretext that it won't be the perfect peace."

Karadzic Warns Muslims To Accept Confederation

LD2706225193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2129 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Zvornik, 27 Jun (TANJUG)—The Serbs and Croats have so far agreed on a great many issues. I expect them to achieve even more in Geneva tomorrow, probably regarding arrangements for the transitional period, and perhaps the military document included in the Vance-Owen plan that is now being thoroughly modified, Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serbian republic [in Bosnia] told TANJUG tonight, shortly before his departure for Geneva where the talks will continue tomorrow.

I believe that the Muslim Presidency will release some statement and express their agreement with the peace process. The Muslim side's failure to do so will mean that it has opted for war.

We, Radovan Karadzic stressed, want to tell the Muslims living in the Serbian republic as well as the Muslims in Gorazde and Srebrenica, that if this arrangement takes place they should stay in the Serbian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as we will guarantee and fully protect their rights.

We, he noted, do not believe that any of the three republics will be completely pure in ethnic terms.

Asked about what kind of draft solution the Serbian side will put forward tomorrow for the state organization, Radovan Karadzic was categorical in saying that this "is perfectly clear" as far as the Serbs are concerned.

This can only be a confederation. Unless this proves impossible there will be no Bosnia, there will be only two or three states.

I personally believe that the Muslims must as soon as possible clarify their position. If they fail to do so Bosnia will be in effect split in two parts, some of the Muslims will remain with us while the Croats will get the rest; we do not want or plan this. This will, however, be determined by events, that is by life itself.

Under our proposal Muslims will get about 40 towns in the most developed municipalities with vast natural resources, as well as access to the Sava river and to the sea—they will have the right to use the port of Ploce [in Croatia] and a port on the Sava river.

Central Bosnia will be a suitable state for Muslims. According to prewar statistics 1.9 million Muslims lived in Bosnia. According to our proposal they [Muslims] will get an area [central Bosnia] that was inhabited by 2.1 million Muslims, Croats, and Serbs before the war.

Asked about the continuation of the negotiations on maps, Karadzic said "we and the Croats could discuss those maps that do not affect the Muslim side. We do not want to do this without the third party in case the Muslims are affected, because we would not like to harm their interests. However, if the Muslims insist on avoiding negotiations, then we and Croats will have to define the borders of our states," Karadzic explained.

I call on the Muslims again to start the reorganization process of their areas and to take part in talks on demarcation with Serbs and Croats so that the war can be ended immediately and so they can get a decent territory, Karadzic said.

Asked if negotiations without Alija Izetbegovic are possible, Karadzic implicitly said yes. We will accept any authorized, official Muslim representative and in this respect we do not mind if Muslims are represented by Izetbegovic or any other member of the presidency, Karadzic said.

Karadzic Views Geneva Talks, Confederal Plan

AU2506174893 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1517 GMT 25 Jun 93

["Exclusive" interview with Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serbian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, by Dragan Colovic; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Colovic] Good day, Mr. Karadzic.

[Karadzic] Good day.

[Colovic] I am somewhat embarrassed because I know that you have pledged to the cochairmen of the Geneva conference that you will not disclose details of what you have discussed in Geneva. Still, my curiosity, supported by my professional obligation to the listeners of the "More Argument" program, forces me to ask you when the new plan, which was discussed at such length in Geneva, could be presented to the public?

[Karadzic] Well, I hope that I can already say that between the Serbs and Croats, it is completely clear that we have reached an agreement about a confederacy. There will be no going below that. If the Muslims really do not join in this agreement, then the Serbs, and maybe the Croats, will set off on the road to independence. We can no longer wait for the Muslims to try to bail themselves out with some special battles and attempts at taking more territory, particularly to increase their pressure on the Croats and Serbs in order to get additional territory.

They can gain a lot more through negotiations than through fighting, and now this is their chance to join the negotiations and get something that belongs to them and that can make their lives easier and, therefore, more acceptable.

[Colovic] As far as we could understand, this is, in any case, a new approach toward political organization and territorial division of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is mostly based on the current situation on the ground.

[Karadzic] Well yes, this had to tip the scales in the international community, and it did tip the scales. The realistic ratio is such, and the situation is such that reality cannot be overlooked, although we foresee that both the Serbs and Croats, frontally along the borders, will make it possible for Muslim areas to join the Muslim mother republic, which means that the factual state will be revised to a certain extent. In this respect, we think that the Muslims have a great interest in joining the negotiations as soon as possible.

[Colovic] Mr. Karadzic, how can we now include the Muslim side? Over the past few days, as well as yesterday, you publicly offered some territorial concessions and exchange of territory, even towns?

[Karadzic] Yes, we made certain offers that were misinterpreted, particularly regarding Sarajevo—namely, the narrow limits of Sarajevo. I mean Sarajevo in the narrow sense of the word; that is, which, excluding Ilidza, Vogosca, Ilija Spale, and so on, belongs to the Serbs and Muslims. A just division would run along the Miljacka River; however, if the Muslims and the international community do not want the city to be divided in this way, then we would be willing to give up our rights in the center of Sarajevo, in the narrow part of Sarajevo, to exchange them for some other territories. For example, something that is very badly situated for the Muslims in eastern Bosnia, Gorazde and Srebrenica.

I believe that such exchanges of territory should be negotiated, and I believe that this would be best for the Muslims as well. However, we do not insist on this.

[Colovic] Does the new model of organization of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina, which we are discussing, postpone the unification of the Serbian republic and the republic of Serbian Krajina, and if so, to what extent?

[Karadzic] Well, this is the way it is. The unification of the Serbian people as a deep and authentic desire will never be marginal—that is, it will never be outdated. It will take place, and with our referendum, just like the Krajina people with theirs, we have achieved all the conditions for unification. However, since the negotiating process is in progress and there are no standstills, we must give the negotiations a chance. It is certain that neither the Muslims can achieve domination over us nor can Croatia put the Krajina back under its sovereignty—neither militarily nor politically. Therefore, in this respect, we stand much better than our adversaries and have enough reasons to give the negotiation efforts of the EC and the international community a chance.

In this respect, the unification scheduled for St. Vitus Day will probably be postponed. However, it is still up in the air, and we can proceed whenever we want to do so. In the meantime, we will be very fair and cooperative and will give a chance to both the international community and our adversaries, Croatia and the Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to agree on everything politically, sign this, and have it ratified by the international community. Such borders would be permanent and guaranteed, and I think it is better that we do so through political means than to rely solely on military means because in that case, this recognition would probably take a lot longer.

[Colovic] Mr. Karadzic it is my impression that you are satisfied with the way the latest process in Geneva is progressing. Do I have the wrong impression?

[Karadzic] No, it is not wrong. I am really satisfied, and I think I have reason to be satisfied because the international community has for the most part acknowledged the situation on the ground and the new realities that emerged from the war after 14 months. Therefore, there is enough reason for a good mood. We do not feel like victors; we do not want to be victors, we are victors insofar that we have protected our territory and our people. Had we wanted to conquer Muslim or Croat territory, we would have gone for victory, but we did not want to be victors. Therefore, we feel serene because we have carried out the basic assignment of protecting the Serbs from genocide, but we will not be triumphant, and that is why we want the negotiations because after a total defeat of a party, it is very hard to achieve a political solution.

[Colovic] And a just solution for all three peoples in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Karadzic] Yes. We have absolutely nothing against the Muslims, and they must be aware of this. In Greece, I recently received the official representatives of the Kurdish nation, and I invited them to visit the Serbian republic to see for themselves that we are not against Islam but against fundamentalism and domination of the Muslims, which was [words indistinct]. However, regarding Islam, we are perfectly tolerant here. For this reason, we have invited them and said that we would receive their delegation, which would clearly demonstrate how hypocritical the Turks are by playing a double role in defending the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, while they are killing the Muslims at home.

[Colovic] Finally, Mr. Karadzic, when do you resume the talks?

[Karadzic] I believe that another meeting will take place on Monday [28 June] and afterward, very [words indistinct].

[Colovic] We thank you in the name of the listeners of the "More Argument" program.

[Karadzic] My regards to all the listeners.

[Colovic] Thank you very much!

Serbian Leader Plavsic Promotes 'Ethnically Clean' Areas

AU2606202593 Vienna KURIER in German 26 Jun 93 p 5

["Exclusive" interview with "radical Serbian leader" Biljana Plavsic by Richard Schneider in Belgrade; date not given: "We Should Exchange Sarajevo for Another Town"]

[Text] Biljana Plavsic considers the war in Bosnia an appropriate instrument to create a greater Serbia. The 63-year-old biologist, a Presidium member in the self-proclaimed parliament of the Bosnian Serbs, enjoys more popularity at home than Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic. She granted an exclusive interview to KURIER.

[Schneider] Why did the Serbs not accept the Vance-Owen plan?

[Plavsic] Because it would not have brought peace but a permanent war. First, it did not provide for undivided regions for the three ethnic groups. Second, it was disadvantageous for the Serbs in economic terms.

[Schneider] You once stated that, if 50 percent of the Serbs die in this war, 6 million will survive. The cause justifies this. On television, [Serbian President] Milosevic recommended that you consult a psychiatrist.

[Plavsic] Milosevic quoted me as saying that. I was shocked when I heard this statement. The truth is that I was asked what the Serbian population thinks of this war. I quoted a soldier who had been injured.

[Schneider] How do you assess the war in Bosnia?

[Plavsic] As a Serb and as a politician, it is my task to protect our people and our territory. Everybody must decide what sacrifices he is willing to make for that. We must ask again and again how many people have to die for what. Personally I regret every death.

[Schneider] How is your relationship with Milosevic?

[Plavsic] At first, my relationship with Milosevic was correct. Yet I do not like people with charisma. One cannot trust them, and it is difficult to get rid of them. Charisma and democracy are not compatible. We once paid a very high price for a charismatic leader. We do not need another Tito.

[Schneider] Will it be possible for Serbs, Croats, and Muslims to live together again?

[Plavsic] No. Certainly not in our generation. I do not say that as a politician. I only express the opinion of the people.

[Schneider] What would be the alternative?

[Plavsic] At present, the only solution I see is to create ethnically clean territories for the three ethnic groups on the basis of negotiations. Our next goal must be to prepare a life for the next generation that is not reminiscent of the war.

[Schneider] What about Sarajevo?

[Plavsic] I grew up in Sarajevo, and all my possessions are there. Yet I never want to go back. It belongs to the Muslims. We should leave it to them and get another town or a strategically important place in return.

Boras Expresses Regret Over Expulsion of Croats

LD2606141493 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] We have asked Franjo Boras, member of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency, for his commentary regarding the letter which Croatian President Franjo Tudjman sent to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency. Boras attended the session of the Bosnian Presidency in Zagreb yesterday.

[Begin Boras recording] The Presidency shares the fear of the Croatian state in connection with the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially in central Bosnia, in connection with the expulsion of Croats from their houses and homes. We expressed regret and said that we will for our part do everything we possibly can to prevent this and to ensure the return of the refugees from central Bosnia—I mean the Croats as well as other nations if there are any in that area.

Furthermore—and we will mention this at the next Bosnian Presidency session—we will invite both commanders, of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the Bosnian Army, and ask them to send us written reports prior to the meeting about the situation concerning these military clashes between the two armies, the reasons behind such actions, what is troubling each side, what should be done by both sides to end these clashes and, beyind just sending written reports, we will ask them to be present at the session.

If both commanders agree to come, the Presidency should be able to put an end to these conflicts between the HVO and the Army, the consequences of which are clearly visible. [end recording]

Serbian Official Views Agreement With Croats

LD2706133593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1229 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Geneva, June 27 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Serbs and Croats can be expected to reach agreement on territories at the forthcoming summit in Geneva after they already reached agreement on the political organization of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Vice-President of the Serb republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina Nikola Koljevic told TANJUG on Sunday [27 June].

"It would be a logical and the easiest way to reach a territorial agreement with the Croats, which would then make easier a demarcation with the Moslem side," said Koljevic, adding that the Serb side would make a proposal to that effect at the summit [sentence as received].

According to senior officers of the Bosnian Croat forces (HVO), the war between Serbs and Croats is over in the entire valley of the river Neretva and it will most probably be over in the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina soon.

Over the past 15 months, Bosnia-Herzegoivna has been the scene of a bloody civil and religious war in which Moslems and Croats were allies in the early phase but have increasingly engaged in heavy fighting over the past few months.

The Bosnian Serb and Croat sides agreed in Geneva last week that Bosnia should be divided into three confederal units—Moslem, Serb and Croat.

Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic, however, is strongly opposed to the proposal.

The Serb side maintains that the interests of the Moslems should be taken into consideration in the process of demarcation. A condition for that is a direct talk with the Moslem presidency about the political organization of Bosnia-Herzegovina at next week's meeting, said Koljevic.

Izetbegovic and his belligerent Vice-President Ejup Ganic did not attend Wednesday's talks in Geneva which were devoted to the new plan for Bosnia's organization as a confederation.

They on Saturday also boycotted a meeting in Brussels between the rump Bosnian presidency and the foreign ministers of Britain, Denmark and Belgium.

The Moslem side—more precisely the presidency whose legitimacy is recognized by the international community, rather than the small group around Izetbegovic and Ganic—should accept the talks and come out with its view on the proposal, said Koljevic.

The Serb side is ready to leave to the Moslems around 60 percent of Bosnia-Herzegovina's overall economic

wealth, which is situated in the Moslem territory in the central parts of the republic (Tuzla, Zenica and the Moslem-controlled part of Sarajevo), said Koljevic.

It is also important for the Moslem side to have access to the sea and the river Sava, which is a problem likely to be solved, said Kolejvic.

"The Moslem side will benefit more from a political settlement than from a military option, which is, unfortunately, urged at present by some of their leaders," said Koljevic.

Half of the work would be completed if the rump Bosnian presidency accepted the concept of Bosnia's constitutional organization proposed by the Serb and Croat sides, he said, adding that a small percentage of territories under dispute should not be an obstacle to talks.

If the Moslem side rejects this, several other options are possible, said Koljevic.

The first is the international community's pressure on the side which is trying to impose its solution by force, the second is contained in the Washington agreement of five Western countries on safe havens and the third is a referendum in the whole territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina in which the population would vote for either of the two concepts, said Koljevic.

Joint Serbian-Croatian Attack on Maglaj Reported

LD2706134193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Report by Hajrudin Cercic from the Maglaj press center]

[Text] Five thousand shells from three [as heard] artillery pieces and [words indistinct] barrage. Maglaj and its people are disappearing. The dead lie on streets and in buildings, while the wounded await help, which cannot arrive. The apocalypse is continuing and Maglaj is going under.

The chetniks and the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] are pushing forward toward the town from all directions, while the encircled Novi Seher is in flames; at 1400 hours [1200 GMT] the (?third) ultimatum to the Muslim population issued by HVO leaders expired.

We appeal to the UN Security Council, the presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina and UN Protection Force; we are appealing to them—perhaps for the last time—that immediately and in any way they protect the people from mass genocide. You literally don't have even a minimal amount of time to procrastinate.

Sarajevo Radio Reports Serbian, Croatian Attacks

AU2806091493

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian, at 0800 GMT on 28 June 93, reports continued fighting in the following areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina:

Adnan Djonlic reports from Zavidovici that "the united artillery forces of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] and the chetniks" continue attacking the town for the third day running. As he says, yesterday's attacks at Zavidovici and Zepa lasted until midnight. Djonlic adds here that "the defense lines remained impenetrable."

"The chetniks and the Croatian warriors continue to attack the positions of our fighters and the civilian targets on the free territory this morning," Hajrudin Sermic reports at the beginning of his dispatch from Maglaj. As he says, they are destroying "everything that a man's hand has created," ethnically cleansing and then immediately burning down each village that they conquer. "Maglaj is completely sealed off," Sermic reports, and the numerous injured in the town, in dire need of medical treatment, continue to wait for evacuation. "The situation is dramatic in the encircled Novi Seher where the chetniks are attacking from one direction with tanks while the HVO has blocked the evacuation routes," Sermic reports. "Maglaj urgently needs help to save its people," the correspondent exclaims at the end of his dispatch.

Velid Djindo reports from Olovo that, after "a relatively peaceful day," late last night "the chetnik artillery" struck with full ferocity at the civilian targets in Olovo. "The early morning hours are passing to the sound of deafening explosions," Djindo reports.

A report by the Third Operative Group Information Service denounces the "cowardly" shelling of Kladanj last night. As it is reported, the attack on the town, which took place at 2100 GMT, "caused enormous material damage." "The chetniks in the stronghold of Zeravice, in Han Pijesak commune, used howitzers in this attack" the report also says.

Serbian Artillery Shell Kills Seven in Sarajevo

LD2606213893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Chetniks committed yet another massacre in Sarajevo this evening. A shell hit the district of Bistrik at 2115, killing seven people.

Gorazde Situation Updated; Appeal for Evacuation of Wounded

LD2606125993 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] The people of Gorazde are living through a difficult time. Chetniks renewed their artillery attacks along the entire defense line this morning.

The Serb-Montenegrin criminals are trying to burn down as many villages and kill or injure as many civilians as they possibly can, using howitzers, tanks, and incendiary ammunition. The most difficult situation, because of continuous shelling, is along the [place indistinct], in the Ilovaca local community, and in the Vranici, Stup, and (?Perjane) villages. Chetniks yesterday heavily shelled (?Trebesko) Brdo and attempted an infantry attack from (?Cerova) Ravan, which was successfully repelled.

We have information that the aggressors are regrouping their units and preparing a fresh offensive against the free Gorazde territory. We are, therefore, warning all citizens and fighters of Gorazde to be well-prepared and decisive in the defense of freedom for which we have paid with our blood.

An ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] convoy was stopped by chetniks and turned back to Pale yestereday, the president of this humanitarian organization in Gorazde told us. A UNHCR [Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees] convoy carrying food and medicine also failed to arrive, and the tragedy of these people is becoming more acute and hunger is threatening their lives. The airdrop operation has been halted for unknown reasons. If we add to this the fact that the people of Gorazde have not been able to satisfy their basic needs—they have been without electricity and water for the past 15 months—the question arises regarding, above all, European and also international organizations that have been negotiating for almost a year: Why is a just decision concerning the protection of civilians and refugees in Gorazde being delayed? I appeal once again to the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force]—this is the fifth appeal—to urgently send helicopters to Gorazde or evacuate the seriously wounded in some other way because they will not survive unless they are transported to one of the better equipped medical institutions in our state.

Mustafa Kurtovic reporting for the Bosnia-Herzegovina Radio and TV from the Gorazde municipality press center via radio hams.

* Radio Operator Describes Siege in Gorazde

93AE0509B London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jun 93 p 6

[Report by Ayub Stitkovacs and Jamil Rufa'il in Belgrade:"AL-HAYAH Gets Word from Inside the Besieged City: Despite Hardships, Gorazde tries to Halt Serbian March"]

[Text] AL-HAYAH has been able to contact amateur wireless operator Ahmad Bushatlic in the besieged city of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia. He spoke of the continuing unmerciful bombardment of the city since the start of the most recent Serbian attack on 25 May, "at the rate of 3,000 shells per day."

Of the situation inside the city, he said that "nearly all the buildings are demolished or burned, but the rate of casualties has decreased in the last few days, once the inhabitants found hiding places that could protect them from harm from the Serbian shells, both under the rubble of demolished houses, and in the caves and forests around Gorazde."

He mentioned that 1,200 more persons had fled to the city after the Serbs occupied the villages of the Mejija [name as published] and Ostibaca [name as published] during their recent attack. Thus the number of the besieged in the city now exceeds 60,000, among them about 22,000 who had sought refuge there since the start of the war.

The wireless operator reported that the recent Serbian attack had caused the closure of the last corridor used to bring ammunition and food into Gorazde through a rough mountain road. The Serbs had gained control of large portions of it, while its defenders moved to the surrounding heights, where violent fighting ensued in an attempt to expel the Serbs from the region.

He added that violent fighting was going on in other areas in the city suburbs, where defenders were fortifying themselves in strong positions. He said that this defense had hindered the Serbs' attack on Gorazde, "and we have information reporting that Serb losses were heavy."

Bushatlic said that new Serbian forces had crossed the borders of the republic of Montenegro in the last few days and set up headquarters in the Serb-controlled Bosnian city of Cajnic [name as published], about 20 kilometers southeast of Gorazde. He said that according to this information, the Serbian forces attacking Gorazde were made up of 30,000 soldiers and 35 tanks in addition to a large number of armored vehicles.

He explained that the inhabitants were now depending on food aid dropped by parachute from American planes, which was arriving in large quantities. It was dropped carefully into populated areas, making it far easier to get now than at the beginning of that operation.

He confirmed that the morale of the people and defenders of Gorazde was very high, and that "their heroic steadfastness is what has forced the Serbs to halt nearly ten kilometers away." He indicated, however, that "this steadfastness cannot continue indefinitely, if there is no help, or if the Serbs cannot be made to stop the attack. The decision of the population is to continue the defense down to the last person in Gorazde."

Muslim Attacks on Serbs Reported Near Brcko

LD2806084693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0833 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Brcko, June 28 (TANJUG)—Supported by artillery and tanks, Moslem forces Monday morning [28 June] and the preceding night executed strong attacks on the Serb positions around the city of Brcko, in the north of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serb military sources said Moslem forces attacked Serb fighters in the southern sector of the Brcko front around 2 a.m. local time with 60 mm, 82 mm and 120 mm mortars.

A strong Moslem attack ensued around 7:45 a.m. Monday from their stroghold of Vranovaca, five kilometers southeast of Brcko, on the Serb defense positions around Brcko.

The Moslem side used all available weapons—several tanks, anti-tank machine-guns and cannon, mortars and recoilless guns.

The Serb units repelled the attack, and the defense lines remained unchanged, TANJUG was told at the Serb Army local military command.

TANJUG Reports Muslim Attack

LD2706132893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1151 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Belgrade, June 27 (TANJUG)—Bosnian Moslem units attacked with mortars and heavy infantry arms Bosnian Serb positions around the Brcko suburbs of Grbavica at about 11 p.m. (10 GMT) on Saturday [26 June], and tried to make an infantry breakthrough towards this Serbian town in northeastern part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Moslem units were prevented from further advancement but they continued infantry arms attacks through the morning, the Bosnian Serb Army Command reported.

The Moslems launched their attack from their stronghold five kilometres southwest from Brcko, but the Serbian side returned the attack and had no casualties.

The Bosnian Croat forces continued their attacks on the Bosnian Serb Army positions along the front line around Orasje in northeastern Bosnia. One Serbian soldier was lightly injured, the report said adding that Sunday morning was quiet in all battlefronts in the Sava Valley (northern Bosnia).

Moslem forces continued last night their armed provocations towards the Bosnian Serb Army positions in the broader region of the Herzegovina towns of Foca and Kalinovik, Bosnian Serb Army sources reported. The Moslem Army is getting reinforcement and is preparing fresh attacks on the Serb towns of Dobro Polje, Miljevina, Ustikolina and Cajnice, the Bosnian Serb Army Command reported on Sunday.

Serb-Muslim Clashes Reported in Bihac

LD2806101493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0939 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Bihac, 28 Jun (TANJUG)—Serb military sources report attacks by Muslim forces on Serb positions in the Bihac area yesterday, during the night, and this morning. "One fighter of the Serb republic army [of Bosnia-Herzegovina] was killed and two were slightly injured. On the Muslim side there were large losses in terms of personnel and equipment. There is no information on the number of killed, but Muslim Radio Bihac announces that Salih Omercevic, a member of the headquarters of the 5th Muslim corps and Ramiz Drekovic, deputy commander of Sandzaklija, were also killed in this fighting."

Reports Say 45 Croats Killed in Central Bosnia 22-25 Jun

LD2706144093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] According to information from the headquarters of the central Bosnia operational zone, 45 people were killed and about 80 wounded in Muslim attacks on Croatian places in the area from 22-25 June. This was reported by the Croatian Defense Council information department of the Croatian community of Herzeg-Bosna in Mostar. Most victims of the Muslim aggression were either elderly and sick people or children; many were killed by snipers.

Zagreb Radio Says 40,000 Croats Flee Central Bosnia

LD2706221693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2105 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] A representative of the Croat-run office for refugees and displaced persons in Bosnia-Herzegovina has reported that so far 40,000 Croats have fled the aggression of the Muslim army in central Bosnia. He added that every day, more people are arriving from the crisis areas by car and either find accommodation locally or proceed to West European countries, but it is difficult to maintain accurate records.

Seven Muslims Killed by Croats in Kvasnica

LD2706114093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Seven corpses have been uncovered in a mass grave in Kvasnica near Kraljeva Slatina. Members of the Croatian Defense Council committed this massacre when withdrawing from units of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army.

The dead were Muslims. Only one of them was not a civilian, the press center of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army reports.

Croatian Forces Shell Zavidovici, Zepce Areas

LD2706113693 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] The Croatian Defense Council [HVO] units are continuing to shell Zavidovici and the surrounding area. Over 150 shells fell on the village of Dubravica alone. HVO forces are also taking the initiative in Zepce although ustashas committed an unprecedented crime

yesterday. They locked up 70 civilians, mainly women and children, in a building and then fired two Malyutak rockets at the building. It is estimated that about 10 persons died and several dozen were wounded on this occasion.

HVO members renewed the shelling of Zepce this morning. The shelling is continuing. After 0900 Zavidovici once again became the target of the enemy howitzer fire. In the past 24 hours six civilians were killed and 14 wounded in Zavidovici.

We obtained this information from Adem [name indistinct] and Viktor Boban.

Croats Claim Victory

LD2706230793 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 2150 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Excerpt] [Unidentified correspondent] Eight Muslim brigades from Zenica, Tesanj, and Kakanj launched an all-out attack this afternoon on the positions held by the Croatian Defense Council's [HVO] 110th Brigade from Zepce. Croatian defenders have repelled all attacks and liberated the Crni Vrh and Gornja Papretica areas. We received this ham radio report from Zepca this evening.

[Begin unidentified ham radio operator recording] Croat Zepce is in flames. About 1,000 Muslim soldiers have surrendered. This is also the intention of other Muslims who are surrounded in Zepca, Novi Seher, and Gornja Ozimka; however, their extremist officers are stopping them. [end recording]

[Correspondent] So far, 20 HVO soldiers and hundreds of civilians have been killed in clashes around Zepce. [passage omitted]

Croatian Artillery Destroys Mostar Clinic

LD2606200893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] According to today's statement of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army's Fourth Corps, the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] artillery set fire to numerous apartment buildings and completely destroyed a clinic with tank shells. Fortunately the wounded were evacuated just before the attack.

The HVO has attacked Blagaj [Muslim-held area south of Mostar] from several directions simultaneously using tanks, multiple-rocket launchers, guns, and anti-aircraft guns from their positions in Tepsici, Slipcici, Gubavica, Kuna, and Mostar airport. Despite the ferocity of the attack, the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, i.e. the 48th Hill Brigade, is firmly holding the defense line in this part of the Mostar municipality.

HVO artillery has also been targeting the district of Zalik, destroying numerous apartments and wounding five people, including two children.

Muslims Reportedly Continue To Attack Croats

LD2606150393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] The Muslim army is continuing its offensive against Zepce and Zavidovici. Following an artillery attack this morning, they attempted an infantry breakthrough in the area of the Zepce junction. After formations of the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] repelled this attack, new ones began from the direction of Tesanj. The Muslim army and formations of MOS [Muslimanske oruzane snage—Muslim armed forces] are firing mortars from Crni Vrh at Zepce, and tanks are also being used in the attacks. A large number of Croatian civilians have fled from the town to take refuge in nearby villages. The fighting is still going on but some of the formations of the Muslim army in Novi Seher have surrendered to members of the 101st Brigade of the HVO, the HVO third operational zone command reported.

Six civilians were injured in the mortar attacks by the Muslim army on Puticevo, a village to the east of Travnik. Muslim forces this morning again attacked Sebesic, a village near Novi Travnik, from the Rostovo plain. Tanks and guns are also being used in these infantry attacks. There are dozens of destroyed houses and economic facilities in this region, but fighters of the Stjepan Tomasevic Brigade, regardless of the attack as a whole, are firmly holding their defensive lines.

Throughout the night Muslim formations fired 120-mm and 80-mm mortars at the villages of Kruscica and Rijeka, near Vitez. More than 50 shells were fired and significant material damage was caused. The information service of the HVO third operational zone has reported that Muslim forces have not allowed UN Protection Force troops to go into the village of (Gakovac) in the municipality of Kiseljak, where they wanted to establish the number of Croats killed in this village.

Muslims Reportedly Kidnapping Civilians in Sarajevo

LD2706104293 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1034 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text]) Belgrade, June 27 (TANJUG)—Groups of armed Moslems demonstrated their power on Saturday [26 June] by kidnapping civilians from Sarajevo streets and taking them to unknown direction, probably to dig trenches, Croatian radio's correspondent from Sarajevo reported on Saturday evening.

The man hunt continues in the streets of Sarajevo, while the Moslem military and civilian police are not doing anything to prevent these criminal acts, Croatian radio said.

Croatian radio also reported that the Moslem kidnappers were under the command of Nusan Zupalovic, against whom the Moslem military judicial organs have previously brought criminal charges.

The Bosnian Serb leadership has also accused Moslem authorities in Sarajevo of tolerating unlawful arrests and forcing Serbs to dig trenches on the front lines.

For the past 15 months, Bosnia-Herzegovina has been the scene of a brutal civil and religious war between the local Moslems, Serbs and Croats.

Muslims Shell Novi Travnik, Detain Croatian Civilians

LD2706130693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 1205 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] In Novi Travnik snipers are still in evidence, while Muslim forces have been shelling the town. Croatian civilians recently released from a Muslim prison have said that about 32 people were killed and that there are still about 25 Croats being held in very poor conditions.

Croats, Serbs Clash in Trebinje

LD2806105893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1021 GMT 28 Jun 93

[Text] Trebinje [southern Bosnia-Herzegovina], 28 June (TANJUG)—Fierce artillery duels have been taking place since this morning in the Trebinje sector of the Herzegovina front after a lengthy lull, the command of the Serb forces has announced.

The clashes began after regular units of Croatia this morning opened a fierce mortar and artillery barrage on Serb villages and positions of the Herzegovina corps around Popovo Polje [northwest of Trebinje]. The Serbian side responded with powerful artillery fire on positions of the forces stationed in the occupied parts of the Trebinje municipality.

In these clashes, it has been announced, one Serb fighter was killed and two were seriously injured. Their names have not yet been announced.

Powerful and almost constant explosions are reaching as far as Trebinje. There is hardly anyone on the streets of the town this morning because the inhabitants, fearing attacks on civilian buildings in the town, are taking refuge in safer places. Sometime before 1200 hours [1000 GMT] sirens signalled a general alert, which is still in force.

HVO Commander Says UNPROFOR Supplying Arms to Muslims

AU2706193093 Novi Sad TVNS Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Interview with Dragan Juric, commander of the Croatian Defense Council Brigade Herceg Stjepan, by Radivoje Gutic; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Gutic] The clashes between the Croats and the Muslims are not letting up in the valley of the Neretva River. It has been particularly fierce recently around Konjic. Strong Muslim forces in this town and the surrounding area have simply decided to wipe the Croats and their villages from the face of the map. They are pounding them continuously with all weapons available, burning their houses, and torturing the civilians. The Croatian Defense Council [HVO] units are much weaker in this area, and cannot protect them. That is why the Serbian army is expecting a mass exodus of Croatian women, children, and old people from the town and the surrounding villages toward the positions of the Serbian army. They say that there will be several thousand of them.

The Muslims are still on the offensive. They obviously have plenty of men and weapons. Where do they get it from?

[Juric] Well, in this area I think they got the men from eastern Bosnia, I do not know, partly from the north. That is where they fled from and gathered here and also a great number of Mojahedin arrived from abroad. They came here for a lot of money. They are only interested in money.

[Gutic] Where did they get all the weapons when they are always complaining that they have almost nothing?

[Juric] A lot of money is involved in this. UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force] helped a lot. We have proof that UNPROFOR's vehicles transported mines and shells, and a lot of ammunition. [passage omitted]

VJESNIK Reports Muslims Have Chemical Weapons

LD2706162593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1503 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Zagreb, June 27 (TANJUG)—The army of the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina 'has 23 airplane bombs with nerve gas and other chemical substances', the Zagreb daily VJESNIK said Sunday [27 June].

The paper cited confidential sources in the 'Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina headquarters, as well as those in the Middle East.'

VJESNIK claims this was 'somewhat older type of arms but not less lethal and dangerous.'

The arms, as set out, were obtained in Lebanon, transferred to Syria, and then to Iraq. After that the 'bombs were loaded on trucks with humanitarian aid and Red Crescent insignia was put on the trucks as they passed through Turkey.'

It is addded that five specialists for chemical warfare arrived in Bosnia-Herzegovina together with the chemical arms deliveries. They are accommodated at the 'Dubrava' air base near Tuzla, central Bosnia.

VJESNIK recalls that Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic stated for Turkish news agency in mid-June that he 'no longer ruled out chemical warfare as the last resort in fighting the Serbs....'

His deputy Ejup Ganic threatened Europe Friday with terrorist actions of Bosnian Moslems, if the international communuity failed to provide support to them.

Leaders of Bosnian Moslems have previously on several occasions voiced threats of terrorist actions in Bosnia-Herzegovina itself. This was always the case when Bosnian Moslems experienced military defeat.

Military Group Wants Compliance With 15 Jun Agreements

AU2506204193 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] A meeting of mixed military working group was held at Sarajevo airport today with the mediation of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR]. The delegation of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army was led by Mr. Jovan Divjak. Today, the representative of the aggressor's side again rejected holding direct talks with Mr. Divjak and the delegation which he led. The talks were held separately by delegations. The following questions were discussed: Opening of the Sarajevo-Tarcin-Jablanica-Mostar-Capljina route, the resolution of the priority questions concerning the securing of water, electricity, and gas to Bosnia-Herzegovina towns and the repair of the infrastructure necessary for the life of the population, [word indistinct] securing and observation of the agreements signed on 15 June, when the commanders of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, the Croatian Defense Council, and the aggressor's side had met.

The delegation of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army presented its views on the issues discussed, to Brigadier General [name indistinct], commander of the UN Headquarters for Bosnia-Herzegovina. It was emphasized, among other things, that the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army completely agrees that all the agreements signed so far should be fully observed, (?adding, however,) that the interest of the aggressor's side for the observation of these same agreements is minimal.

The delegation of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army especially insists on the observation of the elements contained in the agreement on Srebrenica, Zepa, Gorazde, and Sarajevo. They particularly insisted that water, food, and other conditions necessary for the life of the population be secured. Our delegation obliged itself to examine all the proposals offered by the United Nations, insisting that what has been agreed must be insisted upon. The date of the next meeting was not agreed, it is written in the report by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army Press Center.

Opposition Parties Propose Convening Assembly

LD2506163193 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Leaders of the opposition parties had talks with Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency member Ejup Ganic at the assembly building in Sarajevo last night. A decision was reached to convene a session of an as yet unfounded body—an all-Bosnian assembly—as soon as possible, to decide, in the presence of the most senior political and public workers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, on ways of ending the war in this country. It was agreed that Alija Izetbegovic would invite—for an urgent session—all members of the government and Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina to discuss the proposal on convening an all-Bosnian assembly.

TANJUG Views Removal of Morillon, Wahlgren

LD2606140993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1321 GMT 26 Jun 93

[By Branislava Stanisic; "pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, June 26 (TANJUG)—All commanders of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina have left suddenly and almost without any explanation, so the latest removal of Swedish General Lars-Eric Wahlgren and French General Philippe Morillon is not unusual.

It seems that the recent removal of Gen. Morillon, UNPROFOR commander for Bosnia-Herzegovina had surprised the public only, while the removal of Gen. Wahlgren from the position of UNPROFOR commander for former Yugoslavia came as a surprise both to the general himself and the Swedish Defense Ministry.

Bosnian Moslem and Croat political and army officials have not given their opinion on these removals yet, and Bosnian Serb Army Commander General Ratko Mladic, refused to give any comment to TANJUG's reporter. However, he admitted he was surprised by the decision, because Wahlgren is a "capable general and man" who "fully understands the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina" and "enjoys the confidence of all three sides in the conflict."

General Mile Novakovic, commander of the republic of Serb Krajina army told Tanjug that Gen. Wahlgren is an "objective and, above all, professional soldier." "He never politicizes and has a feeling for human justice," Gen. Novakovic said adding that, as for the negotiations between the Serb and Croat side, Gen. Wahlgren "understands the situation and the psychological side of the problem."

Gen. Novakovic also said that "some NATO circles and some others who want to take things in their hands here saw Gen. Wahlgren as an obstacle to their plans."

Generals Wahlgren and Mladic conducted successful talks in Belgrade this month, reaching a number of constructive agreements.

Unlike Gen. Wahlgren, Gen. Morillon was criticized by all warring sides depending on the situation, and that is why there is not much surprise about his departure. Gen. Morillon complained that he had difficulties with the Serbian side. Basically, the Serbian side did not want to let him be a sovereign in their own territory. Despite Gen. Morillon's protests, Serbs regularly controlled humanitarian convoys for Moslems and, sometimes, searched the general. It turned out that there were good reasons for this, because UNPROFOR had to admit that humanitarian aid was misused.

Bosnian Moslems criticized Gen. Morillon when he denied on March 3, after he entered Konjevic Polje and Cerska in eastern Bosnia, that Serbs had massacred hundreds of Moslems, as reported by Western media. The Moslem rage was unjustified. According to some political analysts and military experts, Gen. Morillon saved Moslems from a complete military defeat. Thanks to his cunning and, we must admit, courage as well, safe havens were established in Bosnia- Herzegovina.

From what is known, it turns out that Gen. Morillon was rewarded and Gen. Wahlgren punished.

Their predecessors Canadian General Lewis McKenzie and Indian General Satish Nambiar were removed due to the differences within UNPROFOR. Both generals were "victims" of their own conviction, which was based on their experience of the actual situation, that the Bosnian crisis should not be solved by a foreign military intervention. They realized this and said it too early.

The same conviction is presently shared by the majority of the international community, who realize that the situation on the spot has to be recognized.

* Izetbegovic Complains of Lack of Weapons

93AE0509A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jun 93 p 6

[Article filed from Bonn and Vienna by Ahmad Kamal Hamdi: "Izetbegovic to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'We Will Not Permit the Cyprusization of Bosnia'"]

[Text] Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic asserted yesterday in a press conference in Bonn, where he met with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, that his government would not permit the partition of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and he called for the lifting of the arms embargo imposed upon it.

Izetbegovic expressed his great unease to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the terrible conditions Bosnia was currently enduring because of the lack of weapons the Muslim people needed, while the country was "the target of aggression from all sides."

He added that the Bosnian people had succeeded in defense, and in holding on to about a quarter of the republic's territory, where more than half its population lived. He asked that the embargo imposed on arms shipments be lifted, pointing out that this embargo was actually imposed only upon Bosnia and Herzegovina, not on Serbia and Croatia. He added that "current conditions are completely different from what they were a year and one-half ago, when the siege was imposed on former Yugoslavia."

He then said that lifting the embargo "was the only sure way of keeping the Bosnian Muslim people alive, and of achieving balance, stability, and peace." He denied that it would lead to prolonging the war.

Responding to a question on his reason for pulling out of the Geneva conference attended by the presidents of Serbia and Croatia, which called for the partition of Bosnia and Herzegovina into sectarian mini-states, the Bosnian president said that he had gone to Geneva not to negotiate with the others, merely to listen to them. He reaffirmed that he and his people would absolutely not accept the division of Bosnia and Herzegovina, or the gathering of peoples and minorities into security zones. He described this idea as "unacceptable—it is like the partition of Cyprus and the division of Lebanon."

On another front, the Organization of Islamic Conference intensified its efforts yesterday, in the Austrian capital, Vienna, to gain the support of the International Conference on Human Rights being held there, for lifting the embargo on arms to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The organization emphasized the need to give the former Yugolav republic an opportunity to defend itself in accordance with the United Nations charter."

* Military Leaders Reject Partition

93P50218A London AL-HAYAH In Arabic 21 Jun 93 p 7

[Report By As'ad Taha]

[Text] Zagreb—Bosnian military sources whom AL-HAYAH met or telephoned are unanimous that accepting the partition option is impossible, even if the political command finds itself compelled to accept it, according to what every one of them says.

In spite of the fact that the current data does not forecast an easing of the military supply problem soon, especially after the rejectin of the recent attempt by the political command to push Europe into agreeing to a partial raising of the sanctions imposed on transporting arms shipments to the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, observers explain the Bosnian military commanders' insistence on continuing the fighting by citing the relative growth in Bosnian military strength, which permits these commanders a glimmer of hope in being able to achieve something which, in any event, will be better than accepting the proposed "Islamic ghetto."

They point in this respect to the tremendous firepower that the Bosnian Army units used during their recent clash with the Croatian separatist militias known as the Croatian Defense Council and also during the unusually fierce artillery response to the Serbian militias which surround the capital, Sarajevo.

Some sources state that the Bosnian Army is witnessing a continual growth in manpower, equipment, and arms, which enabled it to achieve victories in the field during the recent confrontations with the Croats. The Bosnian Army, according to the information which AL-HAYAH has acquired, is capable of taking control of the cities of Zenica, Konjic, Travnik, Kakanj, Jablanica, and the eastern part of the city of Vitez, and of dominating the Lasva River Valley along the line extending from Travnik to Zenica. It was informed that the target of the military operations going on now is to consolidate its control over Vitez and Kiseljak, and that the city of Vares is surrounded on three sides by Bosnian Army units. The Croats no longer have more than an insecure narrow pass connecting the cities which lie along the road from Novi Travnik through Busovaca to Vitez and Kiseljak; i.e., the cities which are resisting the pressure of the Bosnian Army. A Croatian military source estimates the number of Bosnian forces there at six brigades, each containing between 2,500 and 3,000 men equipped with light and medium weapons, in addition to a number of vehicles and heavy weapons. The goal of the Bosnian Army's operations after it has extended its control over these areas is to surround the Serbian units which are besieging Sarajevo and liberate the roads leading to it.

The reasons for the Bosnian Army's growth and its ability ot achieve these things go back to a number of elements mentioned to AL-HAYAH by Hajrudin Osmanagic, deputy military attache in the Bosnian embassy in Zagreb, concerning convulsions in the ranks of the Croatian militias immediately after the first confrontations with the Muslims. A large number of Muslim troops who had joined them at the beginning of the war more than a year ago withdrew from them, along with their weapons. Naturally, they joined the Bosnian Army, and some patriotic Croatians withdrew along with them. Hajrudin affirms that the commander of the Croatian militias in Novi Travnik is proposing that his units join the Bosnian Army.

Observers also traced the growth of the Bosnian Army to its being able to take control over some important positions, such as the ammunition plant in Konjic and its construction of special military industrial establishments, which are small and limited but have become significant.

Veso Vegar, the spokesman for the Croation Defense Council, admitted this to AL-HAYAH. He said that the Croatians were surprised by the unexpected intensity of fire from the Bosnian Army. He attributed this to the small, highly effcient independent war installations that the Muslims have been able to build in Sarajevo and central Bosnia. However, he voiced his belief that the depletion of raw materials and difficulty of acquiring them as a result of the closure of the roads will lead to the paralysis of these installations.

Within this framework, a Bosnian military source told Al-HAYAH that manpower for simple manufacturing processes abounds among the Muslims and "for this reason, we have been able to convert some simple civilian industrial installations to military ones." In this area, it is worth mentioning that they benefit from large reserves of steel in the city of Zenica, in which there is an iron and steel foundry.

The well-known Croatian military commentator, Fran Visnar, said that the Muslims succeeded in establishing good cooperative relations with the war industry in Pakistan and Iran, and that they had a large role in building these installations. He added that the Turkish citizens of Bosnian and Sanjak ancestry in Turkey control most of the shares in Turkish Government war industries and that they have an active role in this field.

It appears that this picture is in complete contrast to the image of the east Bosnia Bosnian Army, which has lost a large number of its positions. A Bosnian source explained this by saying that the Muslim areas in the east have not been in contact with each other as those in the center of the country have. He said that eastern Bosnia is located on borders which are contiguous with the Serbian Republic, which means a continual influx of Serbian supplies to the region. Central Bosnia is a distribution center for whatever military shipments can be smuggled to the Bosnian fighters, leading to the storage of considerable amounts of weapons there in contrast to eastern Bosnia. He added that naturally the Serbian enemy is stronger than his Croatian counterpart.

Some of the Bosnian commmanders fear operations to empty central Bosnia of its Croatians, whose flight is being organized by the Croatian militias "in spite of the fact that there is no need, since the Bosnian fire is being directed toward the positions of the military separatists and not at the civilians' houses."

These commanders point with concern to the decision of Croatian leader Mate Boban to house these refugees in the Herzegovina region as a step leading to changing the demographic makeup of the area, especially since campaigns have been carried out to expel the Muslims from Herzegovina at the same time that the way is being paved to separate it from Bosnia.

Observers speak of a campaign of joint Croatian-Serbian counterattacks, since some of the Croatian forces have withdrawn from the lines confronting the Serbs and have been moved to confront the Muslims.

AL-HAYAH has learned that an intensive Croatian buildup is going on in central Bosnia and is awaiting the poitical decision to launch a counterattack. A Croatian source estimates these forces at 12 brigades, each containing between 1,200 and 1,400 men equipped with light and medium weapons of Yugoslav and Russian manufacture, and American, Hungarian, and German machineguns, not to speak of Russian antitank missiles and a quantity of vehicles, mortars, and rocket-launching platforms, meaning that long chapters remain in the tragedy of Bosnia.

Authorities Reject 3-Month UNPROFOR Extension

LD2506183893 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] The 13th session of the Defense and National Security Council, chaired by Dr. Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, was held at the Presidential Palace today. The council discussed the request by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, delivered by General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, the main UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] commander, acting as a special envoy, demanding Croatian consent for limited extension of the UNPROFOR mandate, with the same powers, for a further three months.

Taking into consideration the overall situation regarding the international position of Croatia and the stances of the most influential factors in the international politics and the Geneva talks and negotiations, and proceeding from the conclusions by the Croatian Assembly's two chambers, and the justified negative mood among the Croatian people regarding the UNPROFOR role so far, because of the untenable fragmentation and total communication blockade of the Croatian state territory and the impossibility of the refugees' return, the council concluded that Croatia cannot accept the extension of the UNPROFOR mandate with unchanged powers.

However, consistent in its policy of seeking a peaceful solution to the conflict, Croatia proposes that the UNPROFOR mandate be extended by one month. Such an extension should be seen as a trial period in which the Serb side should seriously cooperate with the Croatian authorities in the implementation of the UN peace plan.

If the local Serbs sign the agreement on the implementation of the Vance plan, the Republic of Croatia will be willing to examine the mandate extension for a period of three to six months. Without the signing of a binding agreement and significant progress in the peace plan implementation, the UNPROFOR mandate extension would serve merely as a delaying tactic by the Serbian side and a strengthening of the status quo.

The Republic of Croatia reemphasizes that any mandate extension after the afore-mentioned period can be agreed only between the Republic of Croatia and the United Nations, regardless of the UNPROFOR mandate in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia. Moreover, UNPROFOR must have clear instructions and powers in order to impose implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions in compliance with exact deadlines.

The council also discussed relations with the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, following frequent appeals by the Croatian Defense Council and the Croat community of Herzeg Bosna and by many other organizations, church authorities and individuals calling for the Republic of Croatia to do its utmost to immediately stop further aggression and crimes by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army against the Croatian people, committed with the aim of their complete ethnic cleansing from central Bosnia. Over 100,000 Croats are either in exodus, as a consequence of the ethnic cleansing, or facing danger to their lives from the attacks by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army. At the same time the Bosnia-Herzegovina authorities have freely held their sessions in Zagreb, while numerous offices and logistics centers of Bosnia-Herzegovina operate in other Croatian towns, representing those who have conducted ruthless aggression against the Croatian people in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Most seriously and repeatedly condemning such policy, the Council thinks that Croatia must reexamine the attitude toward the Bosnia-Herzegovina authorities, and president of the republic, Dr. Franjo Tudjman, will contact the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency to this effect.

Tudjman Sends Letter to Bosnian Presidency

LD2506190393 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Dr. Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, sent a letter to the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina today. It reads:

The Croatian public has for a long time and with great bitterness and concern followed the confrontations between the Croatian Defense Council and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army, which have grown into open aggression and criminal acts by the Muslim army, the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, against the Croatian people in some parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which, according to the Vance-Owen plan, are the areas where democratic authority should be established, reflecting the ratio of the majority, Croatian, people and other nations within the final constitutional system of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In the last few days, I have received alarming appeals from the representatives of the Croatian people and local authorities, secular and religious institutions from central Bosnia, calling on Croatia to do its utmost to stop the tragedy of the Croatian people in Zenica, Kakanj, Vitez, Busovaca, Kiseljak, Kresevo, Travnik, Konjic and in the areas of Zepce and Usora, where complete ethnic cleansing has been conducted with the destruction of villages and massacres of the civilian population. Over 100,000 Croats are already either refugees or facing danger to their lives.

I remind you that the Republic of Croatia has since the first day of the war given all possible help to Bosnia-Herzegovina, accepting and accommodating hundreds of thousands of mainly Muslim refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina, that it was the first to recognize Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state and established diplomatic relations with it. Bosnia-Herzegovina authorities have also freely held sessions in Zagreb. Representatives of those authorities are freely moving throughout the territory of the Republic of Croatia, violating basic

international regulations with regard to asking permission to carry out their activities on the territory of another sovereign state. There are numerous offices and logistics centers of the political organizations and the army that is committing crimes and aggression against the Croatian people operating in many locations in Croatia.

All these issues were discussed at the session of the Defense and National Security Council of Croatia, and the following conclusions were reached:

That the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency and government be told that Croatia cannot be indifferent toward further implementation of such policy. Therefore, if the aggression and crimes do not stop immediately, the Republic of Croatia will seriously reexamine its overall policy toward Bosnia-Herzegovina. I thus appeal to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency and government to take necessary determined steps without delay in order to immediately stop expulsions and maltreatment of the Croat population, and to normalize relations. The Republic of Croatia, for its part, is willing to continue developing relations with Bosnia-Herzegovina and to use all its influence to achieve cooperation of all three nations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, particularly the Croats and Muslims, under the condition that such willingness is shown and proven by the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency and government.

Please receive expressions of my respect, the letter of Dr. Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, to the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency says.

Granic Lauds Kozyrev's Constructive Role

LD2706212693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Mate Granic, vice president of the Croatian Government and foreign minister, has left for Moscow on an official visit. Minister Granic will meet his Russian opposite number, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his aides, and high-ranking officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry. The Croatian delegation also includes Deputy Foreign Minister Smiljan Simac, adviser to the minister Zoran Bosnjak, and head of the minister's office Vladimir Matek. Let us hear what Minister Granic told Croatian Radio about the importance of his talks in Moscow:

[Begin recording] My talks with the high-ranking officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry, particularly Andrey Kozyrev, are very significant for the Republic of Croatia at this juncture. This is all the more so at a time when a decision is being taken on the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] mandate and on solutions to the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The main reason for this is the fact that the Russian foreign minister is playing a very constructive role both regarding the UNPROFOR and solutions for the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. [end recording]

First U.S. Ambassador Arrives in Zagreb

LD2606154693 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Text] Peter Galbraith, the first U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, arrived in Zagreb today. In a brief statement upon his arrival, Ambassador Galbraith said that his most important task will be to find ways in which the United States will help to alleviate the consequences of the war in Croatia. At the same time, he expressed great satisfaction over his appointment by President Clinton as ambassador to Croatia.

'Highly Toxic Poison' Found in Banija

AU2606160893 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Jun 93

[Report by Ljiljana Letica-Bobinac, journalist of Serbian Radio Petrinja]

[Text] A few days ago, that is, to be more precise, on 23 June, a balloon resembling a weather balloon was found in the village of Bestrma, near Petrinja, to which a small box with unknown contents was attached. The box contained a test tube containing a highly toxic poison sufficient to poison as many as 500 people. After inspection and an analysis carried out in Belgrade, it was ascertained that the test tube could easily explode after which the contents would spread and poison people. Fortunately, nothing of the sort happened because the object was found by fighters who, without touching it or inspecting its contents, immediately informed the proper command.

The Command of the Serbian Army for Banija warns the population and fighters that if they find something similar, they should immediately inform officials in their unit or members of the public security station.

UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Forces] has been informed about all this and after investigation is completed, its entire results will be publicized.

Federal

New Federal President Lilic Discusses Priorities

AU2506192793 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Report by Sonja Djuric report on news conference by FRY President Zoran Lilic; in Belgrade on 25 June—recorded]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Lilic] I feel like somebody who has undertaken a truly great obligation. I will try as hard as I can for all of us to live at least a little better. I believe that we will succeed in it.

[Unidentified reporter] What will happen if you do not realize the program that you read?

[Lilic] What will happen? Well, nothing terrible, a new president will be appointed.

[Unidentified reporter] So, you will resign?

[Lilic] I am not accustomed to tendering resignations, unfortunately.

[Unidentified reporter] What will you do once you are no longer a president?

[Djuric] I will do what I am best at and you know what that is.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Lilic, what kind of Yugoslavia do you want?

[Lilic] Primarily, I would like our citizens to be contented citizens, that they really live in a much richer, better, nicer, and more peaceful Yugoslavia. I believe that they are entitled to it.

[Unidentified reporter] You have mentioned the minimum of national and state interests. What is this?

[Lilic] What is this? Regarding peace on these territories, I think that we must really agree that this is something that is sacrosanct and into which we must all invest our maximum efforts. Regarding the engagement in the economic sphere, that is, regarding everything that is not politics, I believe that there is truly no need to quarrel about how to do it. I am convinced that there is a lot of knowledge on our territories, but this must be integrated and channeled into the achievement of all those goals that I spoke of, to make life better for all of us in this situation.

[Unidentified reporter] What about in politics?

[Lilic] In politics? Well, to reduce our misunderstandings or whatever you want to call them, primarily in the parliamentary struggle, in the struggle (?for our programs), a struggle with arguments, and not a struggle—I would not like to use some unsuitable words—with an indiscriminate propaganda of views in the absence of any strongly justified basis. I believe that we can succeed only if we really do our utmost in the economic sphere and secure a better life for our citizens. If we do this, it will be better for all of us. I promise to you that... [Lilic interrupted by an unidentified reporter]

[Unidentified reporter] Do the minutes of the meeting of the military leadership exist, Mr. Lilic?

[Lilic] I have expected the question about the minutes of the meeting of the military leadership. Material exists in which everything is clearly stated, and all those who took part in it know about it. I am sorry that you have asked me this. However, there will be an opportunity to discuss it. Thank you very much! [end recording]

Lilic Addresses Assembly

AU2506140993 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1214 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Address by Zoran Lilic, newly elected president of the FRY, to the Federal Assembly, in Belgrade on 25 June—live]

[Text] I hope that you will understand my excitement and that you will not hold it against me if I perhaps miss a word or a sentence.

Esteemed people's deputies, ladies and gentlemen, esteemed quests, I would first like to thank you for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me FRY president. In these extremely hard times for our country and its citizens, I will do all that is in my power to live up to the great responsibility and duties to which the president is bound by the Constitution and laws. I will make every effort toward the commitment to peace, the preservation of national interest, the protection of the country's integrity and security, the rule of law, social justice, the observation of citizens' rights and liberties, and the establishment of a successful and modern economy.

As president, I vow to maintain, within my constitutional and lawful authority, the policy of peace as our basic commitment, in the hope that Europe and the world, once faced with this, will finally recognize the truth and the reality on these territories, as well as the constructive role of our country. There is no greater goal for us than the preservation of external security and the internal stability of our common fatherland. I am convinced that all the citizens of Montenegro and Serbia feel the same, as well as our people outside the Yugoslav borders who carry it in their hearts.

The former Yugoslavia ceased to exist when four federal units unilaterally decided to step out of Yugoslavia and form their own states. The 1992 Constitution did not create a new state but reinstated the will of the citizens of Serbia and Montenegro to organize their state in a new way, and to remain living together in Yugoslavia, thus maintaining its continuity. The constitutional regulation on the openness of the FRY has left the possibility to others, who were left outside its borders, to join this

state—under changed internal and international circumstances, and based on the jointly established interests.

The severity of the situation, particularly in the isolation, has influenced political developments in our country. Because of that, we all have to accept the fact that there is a great need for a minimum consensus on the protection of the national interest of the country and its citizens. As president, I will aim to preserve, at any cost, that minimum of consensus on state and national interests.

As for the international community, I will try—as the president to whom you have just given your confidence—to do everything within my power that we overcome the state of isolation. Aware of the necessity of a complete and overall involvement in international integrational, political, and economic trends, we have to engage all our forces to overcome this situation. But we certainly cannot do that at any cost, and definitely not at the expense of the national interests but only on the principles of equality, as they are set out in the U.N. Charter and other internationally recognized documents on relations between sovereign states. Yugoslavia was and is—I am convinced, as you must be—and will remain open to all forms of cooperation with all states, ready for overall cooperation with the international community in the solving of all the problems on which it can realistically have an effect on the principles of equality and respect of sovereignty.

The embargo, international isolation, the disintegration of the former Yugoslav market are serious and large obstacles to the general economic developments in the country, but we must not allow them to be the only and exclusive excuse for errors and poor results. We have to turn to work, we have to turn to knowledge, and seek the solutions to our problems there. That is why the measures of the federal and republican governments to introduce more order to our economy in these complex circumstances should he hailed, and we should mobilize all the forces in the revival of the economy. We should use the experience of other countries as a sign-post, countries that expected much from others and whose expectations proved to be futile, and the consequences that they do not feel now they will feel in the near future.

That is why we, as a country, should do everything we can—primarily using our own potentials, work, and knowledge—to struggle for our own place among other countries. How quickly we can do that depends on how much we accept it as a common goal. It is vitally important that we believe in ourselves, that we know what we want, and that we have the tenable strength to achieve it. In order to achieve these aims, we must first try to share out the burden of the economic (?hardship) equally. The functioning of a law-governed state is, I believe, an important national goal, and a condition for our development as a democratic society. The observance of the Constitution and law is not, will not, and cannot be [word indistinct] ideological or [word indistinct] or interpretation. Respecting what this assembly has amalgamated into law projects, we cannot be divided into parties, but into those who work according to the law and in the interests of our common state, and those who work against the law and against the interests of Yugoslavia. [sentence as heard] The most energetic of measures that our laws prescribe have to be undertaken against them, and no one can be—and must not be—exempt.

I will try, in the duty I have accepted, to contribute to the harmonious and constructive efforts of all those who live in this country, who work for it, and have its best interests at heart. [word indistinct] authority and the rightful place among the nations of the world.

Esteemed deputies, in my conviction that we can achieve this together, I would like to thank you once again for the confidence you have placed in me. Thank you. [applause]

Lilic 'Committed to Peace'

AU2506143593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Statement by Zoran Lilic to Radio Belgrade editor Momcilo Boskovic—recorded]

[Text] Here, after a long road, and we must invest all our efforts, integrate all our knowledge, primarily in solving the accumulated economic problems. [sentence as heard] I am convinced that these powers exist, and they must be mobilized, just as I am convinced that we really must work a lot more and politicize a lot less.

In the interest of our people, we must accomplish this step forward, primarily towards solving those extreme issues, and once we have solved them, I think we will solve everything else. Of course, we are permanently committed to peace, helping the just struggle of the Serbian people as much as is possible from our (?islands).

Milosevic Praises Lilic

AU2506153293 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic made a statement for Radio Belgrade after the election of the new president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

[Unidentified correspondent] President Milosevic, we have a new president now. What is your opinion?

[Milosevic] I expect the new president, and I am sure that all the citizens of our country expect it, to successfully carry out his responsible duty. Knowing him to be a successful economist, a successful chairman of the Serbian People's Assembly, a man whom I am certain will not spare himself, or the strength he possesses, or time, in order to carry out this responsible assignment, I believe he will be successful. I wish him all the best.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are we headed for calmer and generally more stable Yugoslav waters; (?will) Yugoslavia live?

[Milosevic] I hope that the answer to your question is positive. We are finally on the brink of peace on Yugoslav territories, and I believe that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in the time that lies ahead, will show its great vitality, its capability for a modern and successful development both in the economic, political, cultural, and every other aspect.

This depends on all of its citizens, and I am sure that the citizens, every one by himself and all together, will strive to maximally contribute to this.

Sainovic Lauds Lilic Election

AU2506201693 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Statement by Serbian Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic to Belgrade Television reporter Zeljko Avramovic; in Belgrade on 25 June—recorded]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Avramovic] Mr. Sainovic, here we have two successful businessmen in two responsible state functions. What kind of cooperation do you expect?

[Sainovic] I expect only the best possible cooperation. The arrival of such a diligent, young, honest, and ambitious man at this moment is the real thing for everything that must be done to strengthen the federal state. As regards cooperation, even so far we have cooperated in the best possible manner and I expect all the best for this country, as much as this is possible in these difficult moments. [end recording]

Bulatovic: Election 'Step Forward'

AU2506200093 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Statement by Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic for Belgrade Television in Belgrade on 25 June—recorded]

[Text] Regardless of the very difficult circumstances in which we live, I believe that we made a significant step forward today. I believe that we have a modern and contemporary man who is very dear to me as FRY president. His program speech clearly demonstrated the continuity of our state interests and determinations. I believe that we will be even stronger now to meet all the challenges that await us.

Chamber of Republics Passes New Federal Budget

LD2506164593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1549 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jun (TANJUG)—The Federal Assembly's Chamber of Republics today adopted the rescheduled federal budget for this year, amounting to 1,277,756 billion dinars. That is about 25 times more than the previously—end of March—adopted budget, which amounted to 50,606 billion dinars.

The largest part of the federal budget—76.6 percent—is allocated for financing the Army of Yugoslavia, and 9 percent is allocated for the work of federal bodies.

Among the larger expenses are aid to refugees—35.8 trillion dinars—and for intervention in the economy—over 15 trillion dinars.

Federal budget resources are to be financed mostly from obvious sources—68.8 percent—and the rest from the sale of securities and from Yugoslav national bank loans.

Chamber of Citizens Rejects Budget

LD2506175893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1652 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jun (TANJUG)—The Federal Assembly today failed to adopt the rescheduled federal budget, which, according to the government's proposal should increase from 50,000 billion dinars to 1,277,000 billion dinars. The federal government has been instructed to present a new proposal as soon as possible.

The rescheduled budget failed to gain support of the Chamber of Citizens, while the Chamber of the Republics passed it.

The ruling Socialist Party of Serbia [SPS] and the Montenegrin ruling Democratic Party of Socialists [DPS] supported the rescheduled budget, but the other groups of deputies voted against.

Prices Increase by 366.7 Percent in June

LD2506203193 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1606 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Belgrade, June 25—As compared to May, prices in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia increased by 366.7 percent in June, Mirjana Rankovic, assistant to the director of the Federal Bureau of Statistics, told reporters on Friday [25 June].

The prices went up 4.7 times on average, which is more than the increase of foreign currencies in the black market (3.7 times) in the same period.

Prices of industrial products went up 410.8 percent, services 277.6 percent, while prices of agricultural products went up only 153.4 percent.

As compared to May, the cost of living increased 341.1 percent in June. This is mostly the result of the increase of prices of tobacco and alcoholic drink (576.2 percent).

Statistics Show 80 Percent on Verge of Poverty

AU2806072293 Novi Sad TVNS Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Report by Slavica Putnik from Novi Sad]

[Excerpt] Over 80 percent of the population can, daily, buy only bread and milk with their salaries, pensions, or

social assistance. The increase of the price of milk, which amounts to a daily 680,000 dinars, if multipled by 30 days, is over 20 million dinars a month.

Only some 10 percent of the population can still afford a better meal, which would include eggs, margarine, processed meat products, and some fruit and vegetables. The price of this consumers' basket, without meat, is just under 10 million dinars.

Only 3 to 5 percent of the citizens do not have to be careful about the prices and what to buy. Therefore, according to the statistics, about 80 percent are on the verge of poverty. The middle classes that used to be the pillar of society are slowly melting, and there are very few of those who do not have to give up anything these days.

Let us hear what the Novi Sad people have to say about prices, life, and survival.

[First citizen] People do not have enough for milk and bread.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your monthly income?

[Second Citizen] It is enough to make you faint! 3.5 million!

[Unidentified reporter] So how do you manage to make ends meet?

[Second Citizen] How? I sell things I find in the house. That is how well I live. [passage omitted]

Medicine Shortage Causes Rise in Infectious Diseases

LD2606163693 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1446 GMT 26 Jun 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, June 26 (TANJUG)—Infectious diseases are on a noticeable rise in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a result of a lack of medicaments and declining standard of living caused by the tough U.N. economic sanctions against Yugoslavia, the Belgrade daily POLITIKA writes on Saturday [26 June].

Belgrade's clinic for infectious diseases lacks antidote for snakebite, vaccine against rabies, human serum and anti-tetanus vaccine, the paper quotes Vladimir Ilic, director of the Institute for Infectious and Tropical Diseases of the Serbian Clinical Centre, as saying.

Antibiotics are also running out and there is a lack of reagents for bacteriological and virological tests for measles and herpes, said Ilic, adding that many laboratory tests have therefore been reduced.

On that clinic, there are enough medicaments for aids patients owing to some humanitarian organizations but they will suffice for only another month or two, said Ilic.

As a result of the United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (imposed on May 30 last year and tightened in April this year) as well as to the deteriorating economic conditions, hospitals face many difficulties, including the shortage of detergents and parts for sanitary facilities and poor meals, said Ilic.

At the plastic surgery clinic in Belgrade, the lack of surgical materials is the biggest problem because the nature of the injuries treated there requires large quantities of suture, needles, bandages, elastic plaster, etc.

The number of patients has increased lately in that clinic because more people get burns while handling fuel containers now that fuel is difficult to find, said director of the clinic Miodrag Karapandzic.

The clinic has also struggled in vain over the past five months to make operational the bath tub for patients with serious burns, said Karapandzic, adding that many other vital medical apparata were also out of use because of the lack of parts.

The United Nations has banned trade and financial transanctions with Yugoslavia, which has made virtually impossible the obtaining of medical equipment.

Although exports of medicaments to Yugoslavia are not banned, the country does not have enough foreign currency to buy them because its exports are banned.

Serbs From Bosnia, Croatia Hold Unification Talks

LD2506203593 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2011 GMT 25 Jun 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, June 25 (TANJUG)—Parliament speakers of the Serb republic [of Bosnia-Herzegovina] Momcilo Krajisnik and the republic of Serb Krajina Mile Paspalj met in Belgrade on Friday [25 June] to discuss the initiative for the unification of these two Serb republics.

"Krajisnik and Paspalj have agreed that the process of unification should be continued through the work of [word indistinct] bodies, and that a chance should be given to the Geneva talks, in the meantime," said a communique on the talks which was received by TANJUG.

The two speakers will initiate a joint meeting of the state and political leaderships of the two republics to coordinate all questions relating to the unification and set a date for the holding of a joint assembly, said the communique.

The republic of Serb Krajina was formed by Serbs within the administrative boundaries of the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia where they are the majority population in answer to Croatia's secession, and the Serb republic was formed according to the same principle in the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The citizens of both newly formed states opted for unification into a single state at a recent referendum.

At the referendum in the Serb republic on May 15 and 16, 93 percent of the electorate was for unification, and at the referendum in the republic of Serb Krajina on June 19 and 20, 97 percent of the electorate also voted in favor of unification.

There was an initiative in Krajina that the unification take place on June 28 on St. Vid day, but the leadership of the Serb republic was against a hasty and formal act which might jeopardize the recent positive about-turn at the Geneva peace talks for resolving the crisis in former Yugoslavia.

Serbia

Health of Vuk Draskovic and Wife Reportedly Improving

LD2506213193 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 25 Jun 93

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jun (TANJUG)—The condition of Vuk and Danica Draskovic improved after extensive diagnostic procedures and treatment, doctors at the Serbian clinic in Belgrade announced today.

The next health bulletin will be issued Sunday, 27 June

Belgrade Rally Demands Release

AU2706142593 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Marking the first anniversary of the Democratic Movement of Serbia [Depos], the representatives of that organization held a protest rally in the Trade Union House in Belgrade, under the name: For the freedom of Vuk and Danica Draskovic, the only political prisoners in Europe.

Katarina Andric reports.

[Begin Andric recording] The rally was first addressed by Academician Matija Beckovic. He said that Vuk and Danica Draskovic were the only political prisoners known to Europe, prisoners of a conscience that was still not aware of its disease.

Jovan Hristic spoke on behalf of the Association of Serbian Authors. He stressed the importance of the protest evenings in this association, held every time the freedom of man was endangered, as it was now when Vuk and Danica Draskovic were under arrest. The protest voice of the Serbian authors has always yielded results, and so we hope, Hristic said, that this voice will contribute to the release of the Draskovics so that they can be with us where they belong.

Academician Predrag Palavestra said that, during its first year in existence, Depos might not have fulfilled all the expectations, but, he added, it certainly stirred the lethargic conscience of the people.

Slobodan Raketic spoke on the behalf of the Serbian Renewal Movement [SPO]. According to him, the authorities only proved how afraid they were of those who wanted change by arresting the Draskovic couple.

Many other representatives of the Serbian opposition parties also addressed the rally. Finally, Kosta Cavoski, vice chairman of the Serbian Liberal Party, read out the demands set by the rally. They demand the release of Vuk and Danica Draskovic, arrest of those policemen who beat them up, and an investigation into the criminal and political responsibility of those who ordered physical violence to be used against Vuk and Danica Draskovic. They also demand the withdrawal of the proposal for the ban of the SPO. [end recording]

Macedonia

Albanian Officer Killed, One Wounded in Border Incident

LD2706193993 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1851 GMT 27 Jun 93

[Text] Skopje, 27 Jun (TANJUG)—The Ministry of Defense of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia released a statement this afternoon saying that at midday yesterday an incident took place near the Albanian border near the border outpost of Strezimir, in which one person was killed and one was wounded.

According to the Ministry's statement, the incident took place when two officers of the Albanian Army, a major and captain, armed with semi-automatic and automatic rifles, were entering the territory of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Asked by the border outpost crew to lay down their arms, one of them opened fire with his automatic rifle while the other was about to do the same.

One of the Albanian officers was killed and the other was wounded in the shoot-out that followed.

The two Albanian officers had entered about 500 meters into the territory of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, according to the Macedonian Ministry's statement.

At about 1500 today a mixed commission of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia and Albania inspected the site of the incident to establish the circumstances, the statement says.

Ethnic Serb Leader Opposes U.S. Presence

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[Interview with Bozidar Despotovic, Association of Serbs and Montenegrins in Macedonia chairman, by Teodor Marjanovic in Skopje; date not given: "We Are Simply Asking for Human Rights"]

[Text] [Marjanovic] According to the Macedonian Ministry of Information, 44,159 Serbs live in the republic. Do you agree with this figure?

[Despotovic] No. We normally reckon with figures of 200,000, 300,000, all the way up to 400,000. However, until an internationally monitored census is carried out in Macedonia in April 1994, I can only say that there are definitely more than 44,000 of us. We will just have to wait and see how many more.

We Are Fighting for Our Identity

[Marjanovic] Do you accept Macedonia as your country?

[Despotovic] We are citizens of this country, and our association is a nonpartisan organization in which we are fighting to protect our national identity via education, information, the media, and religious services. We will see how successful we are. At the moment, however, we are not recognized as a nation and the new constitution makes no reference to us.

[Marjanovic] Does this mean that you do not want to be a minority, but a state-forming nation?

[Despotovic] We Serbs regard ourselves as part of the Serbian nation. Our status here will not depend so much on us as on the Macedonian Assembly. Regardless of this, however, we will remain a part of the Serb nation in the Balkans, without demanding for ourselves the right to be a state-forming nation.

[Marjanovic] What is the current situation of the Macedonian Serbs and Montenegrins? Do you feel under any threat?

[Despotovic] We are under threat, and there is much evidence of this. Under the SFRY, we enjoyed all kinds of rights. There were several Serb schools and even a high school here. Today only one school remains, here in Skopje, which is mostly attended by the local Muslims. They speak Serbian, but they are in fact Serbs who converted to Islam during the Ottoman Empire. They have kept the language, but now—via their faith and fundamentalism—they are defending some kind of right to be a nation, which, unfortunately, was given to them in the former Yugoslavia—a decision made by Tito and the communist leadership—although Muslims do not form a nation anywhere in the world.

In other towns and villages, even where Serbs make up 100 percent of the population, there have been no schools since 1941 when the Bulgarians invaded. The Serbs' assimilation took place throughout the communist era. The inhabitants of entire villages suddenly became Macedonians when their surnames were changed. This policy continues even today. It involves the systematic suppression of everything that is Serb. However, the current Macedonian leadership is very well aware of the risk presented by the possibility of war and, therefore, it will have to introduce democratic conditions. After all, that is the only way Macedonia can get into Europe.

However, I have to tell you something that is also important for Czechs. I recently read a statement made by Vaclav Havel, who—obviously—knows very little about the Balkan situation. I had previously thought he was a great humanitarian. The Serbs have never started a war anywhere, they have always been provoked into defending themselves. The centers of world power had very much hoped that we in Macedonia would open the so-called southern front. However, due to the humanistic mentality of the Macedonians, who are not trying to provoke the Serbs, we have succeeded in avoiding the greatest danger.

Divide Serbia and Rule

[Marjanovic] Whom do you mean by these centers of world power?

[Despotovic] These are the powers that determine UN policy. Take the sanctions alone. Apart from the Serbs, Muslims, Albanians, and Hungarians live in Serbia. What have these people done wrong? What crimes have the children who are now suffering because of the sanctions committed? The women, the sick, the elderly? This Security Council policy is driving the world to wrack and ruin. It is a conspiracy against small nations, specifically against the Serbs, because they are the strongest in the Balkans. If someone annihilates us, it will be much easier to create mini-states and colonies in the Balkans, which their capital will easily dominate. Divide and rule is the slogan of the "new world order."

[Marjanovic] In that case, what do you think about the planned arrival of 300 U.S. troops in Macedonia under the UN banner?

[Despotovic] We will resist any concentration of foreign armies in our country, even if it means we have to oppose the Macedonian state if it were to accept something like this. We will do so with all the means we have at our disposal as a dissatisfied nation. I do not like to use strong words, but we are prepared—as a last resort—to take up arms and defend ourselves. We will defend our integrity and the integrity of the Serbian nation in the Balkans, and we will defend Kosovo—the cradle of the Serbian nation—and also the area that used to be called Old Serbia.

The American soldiers are apparently coming to keep the peace, but their presence will merely increase tension. They are meant to create the conditions for economic conquest. We are afraid that we will again have to shed

our blood for a large country. An English writer recently calculated that if the Serbs had not suffered so many losses in the world wars, there would be 50 million of us today. In such a case, everything in the Balkans would have been resolved long ago.

Resisting Demonization

[Marjanovic] Are you in favor of all Serbs living in their own state?

[Despotovic] I never said this. We Serbs and Montenegrins want to live in an independent, free, and democratic Macedonia. However, if Macedonia becomes independent and, at the same time, very dependent on the United States—which wants to come here in blue helmets—we will see what we will do. Is that clear?

[Marjanovic] Their arrival is, so to speak, imminent.

[Despotovic] Who is Macedonia afraid of? After all, Milosevic has made it clear to Gligorov that he does not have to fear anyone or anything on the Serbian side. We have no territorial claims, we are citizens of the Macedonian state, and we do not ask for anything other than human rights. The unity of the Serbian nation, of which I am speaking, does not mean a single pan-Serbian state. This is what our Serbian politicians, and Milosevic himself, are saying. Despite this, however, Macedonian officials are appealing to U.S. troops to protect them from the Serbs. This is not the will of the Macedonian nation, but the diktat of the potentates who want to implement their new world order on our backs.

[Marjanovic] What do you think of the various plans to carve up Macedonia, plans published in the Serbian press and proposed by Serbian Radical Party Chairman Vojislav Seselj?

[Despotovic] We are opposed to the annexation of any part of Macedonia to Serbia. We want to live in this country. As far as Seselj is concerned, I have spoken with him and I know that neither he nor anyone else has ever demanded anything of the kind. We merely say that the oldest medieval Serbian monuments are here and that Serbia was here many centuries before it was even possible to talk about the creation of the Macedonian nation.

Therefore, I ask you to publish what I say the way I say it and to present us as we really are. Only in this way can we prevent the further demonization of the Serbian nation, something that began in Vas Miskin Street (a street in Sarajevo where two grenades exploded last year killing and seriously injuring several dozen people standing in line for bread—author). Today we know the Serbs did not do this. This, of course, does not mean that we are advocating a peaceful policy just for the sake of it. We are merely following very carefully what is going on and we are taking care to ensure that we do not become someone's satellite. We will not give in, we are a historic nation, and I hope we will remain our own masters and will continue to write the history of the Balkans. Perhaps this sounds conceited, but we are absolutely convinced this will be the case. If it bothers anyone, that is his problem.

Montenegro

Podgorica Combine Loses Millions Through Sanctions

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[Text] Podgorica, June 28 (TANJUG)—The Podgorica Aluminum Combine (KAP) is losing due to sanctions in exports alone some ten million dollars per month, KAP Director Danilo Vuksanovic told TANJUG Monday [28 June].

The combine was the largest exporter in the Yugoslav Republic of Montenegro until the economic sanctions were imposed 13 months ago. The value of its exports on the average ranged between 150 and 200 million dollars annually, and imports stood at about 40 million dollars.

Due to shortage of imported crude oil, raw materials and production materials, the combine closed down the aluminum oxide factory and half the electrolysis installations. If the entire electrolysis stopped, it would take two years to start it over again, said Vuksanovic.

He explained that production was being maintained only thanks to the reserves of raw materials and production materials. The installed capacity of KAP is 102,000 tonnes of aluminum annually. One-fifth of the 4,500 KAP employees are laid off.

"When sanctions are eased, we will need large capital to start up the entire production. Just how much this will cost, no one can tell," said Vuksanovic.

According to official estimates, the Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro have in the one year since the introduction of the economic blockade sustained damage amounting to about 20 billion dollars.

The U.N. Security Council imposed on May 30, 1992, an international embargo against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia over its alleged involvement in the civil and religious war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The sanctions were tightened on April 26 this year because the Bosnian Serbs refused to sign the Vance-Owen peace plan.

Vojvodina

Seselj Harangues Subotica Crowd

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[Video report by Janos Fekete from Subotica]

[Text] There is still peace in north Backa, although Subotica's self-government and the fact that in this town Serbs, Hungarians, and Croats have lived together without trouble has long caught the eye of the radical movement of Duke Seselj. A mass rally which was held last night intended to change this situation.

[Fekete] The Hungarians, the Catholic Serbs are our brothers-in-arms, Chetnik Duke Vojislav Seselj shouted in front of his audience of about 1,500 people. Of course, there are traitors among them, like Jozsef Kasza and Andras Agoston, who have their place in Hungary, while Bela Tonkovic should go to Croatia, he added.

The question of where those local Serbs should go who demonstrated by their absence has remained unanswered, since by 1900, by the time of the duke's address, the streets were deserted, thus little opportunity for jostling people was left for the chetnik group of 70 people, the Eagles. That is to say, Subotica's population has not responded to the provocation, and kept its recent promise to stay at home.

Seselj, who won the battle against the head of state, has lost here, because he has not understood that in the biggest opposition town of the rump Yugoslavia, Serbs, Hungarians, and Croats still want peace. [video shows Seselj addressing a crowd in street, surrounded by soldiers in uniform]